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NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT

Makeup of Nile Valley Parliament Summarized (AL-MUSAWWAR, No 3059, 27 May 83).....	1
Poor Quality Iron Imports Discussed (AL-AHRAR, 13 Jul 83).....	3
Sinai Committee Proposes Dam, Factory, Coal Projects (Fu'ad al-Shadhili; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 9 Jun 83).....	4

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

QATAR

Gas Marketing Agreement Signed (ARAB OIL, No 7, Jul 83).....	6
---	---

SYRIA

Domestic Political Situation, Regional Aspects Reviewed (Eric Rouleau; LE MONDE, various dates).....	7
---	---

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Soviet Soldiers Recount Their Dilemma in Afghanistan (Savik Schuster; LIBERATION, 5 Jul 83).....	21
Kabul Airport Reportedly Attacked by Guerrillas (BULLETIN TODAY, 15 Jul 83).....	27
Rebels Allegedly Attack Wedding Party, Kill 40 (BULLETIN TODAY, 14 Jul 83).....	28

BANGLADESH

Ershad Ramadan Message to Nation Reported (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 13 Jun 83).....	29
Text of Ershad Speech at 9 Jun Banquet in Belgrade (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 10, 11 Jun 83).....	31
Ershad Meets Press on Return From Yugoslavia (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 13 Jun 83).....	36
Press Reports Foreign Minister's European Visit (THE NEW NATION, 16, 18 Jun 83, THE BANGLADESH OBSERVATION, 17 Jun 83).....	40
Activities in Romania Activities in Ankara Bangladesh-Turkey Communique Text	
Energy Minister's Visit to Ottawa Reported (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 13 Jun 83).....	44
Bangladesh Condemns Executions in South Africa (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 13 Jun 83).....	45
Ershad Deputy Urges Effort Against Corruption (THE NEW NATION, 12 Jun 83).....	46
Steps Taken Against Insurgency in Chittagong Hills (Mahmud Rashid; HOLIDAY, 18 Jun 83).....	47
Bangladesh Signs Loan Accord With India (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 16 Jun 83).....	49
National Committee on Science, Technology Formed (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 16 Jun 83).....	51

INDIA

Expert Discusses Problems in Relations With United States (Partha S. Ghosh; THE STATESMAN, 7 Jun 83).....	52
Analyst Reports Gandhi Meeting With Yasir 'Arafat (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 8 Jun 83).....	55
West Responsible for Change in Arms Purchase Policy (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 14 Jun 83).....	58
Agricultural Cooperation Agreement Signed With Egypt (PATRIOT, 9 Jun 83).....	60
Soviet Union Main Buyer of Indian Fruit Products in '82 (THE STATESMAN, 10 Jun 83).....	61
Machinery for MIG-27 Production Arrives in India (PATRIOT, 6 Jun 83).....	62
Efforts To Heal Kashmir Campaign Wounds Reported (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 11 Jun 83).....	64
New Delhi EEC Commission Head Talks to Press (THE HINDU, 11 Jun 83).....	65
Government Defines Mission of Sakaria Commission (THE HINDU, 8 Jun 83).....	66
Report on Midterm Appraisal of Sixth 5-Year Plan (G. K. Pandey; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Jun 83).....	68
Responsibility To Press Nonaligned Interests Noted (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 12 Jun 83).....	71
Institute for Entrepreneurship To Be Established (THE STATESMAN, 9 Jun 83).....	73
Watch Towers Planned for Bangladesh Border (THE STATESMAN, 10 Jun 83).....	75
Briefs	
Soviet-Aided Refinery	77
More Foreign Tie-ups	77
New Sikkim Party	77
South Africa Hangings Condemned	77
Andhra Pradesh Cabinet	78
Protocol With USSR To Benefit Indian Sports	78
New Bihar District	79

PAKISTAN

Shoora Body Recommends Parliamentary Government (Hasan Akhtar; DAWN, 9 Jul 83).....	80
Political Framework: Dialogue, Debate Stressed (A. T. Chaudhri; DAWN, 9 Jul 83).....	82
Film on Quaid: Work in Progress (DAWN, 9 Jul 83).....	84
Refugees in Baluchistan Number Over 700,000 (DAWN, 9 Jul 83).....	85
Briefs	
Dera Bugti, Kohlu Boundaries	86
Sentenced for Possessing Booklet	86
Brain Research Institute Planned	86
Police, Prosecution to Separate	86

MAKEUP OF NILE VALLEY PARLIAMENT SUMMARIZED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic No 3059, 27 May 83 p 7

[Article: "Nile Valley Parliament In Brief"]

[Text] The Nile Valley Parliament has the following structure:

Presidents of the People's Assembly of Egypt and the Sudan.

Up to 30 members of the Egyptian People's Assembly, and a similar number representing the Sudanese People's Assembly.

Some members known for their competence and whose number does not exceed that of the selected members. The president of the republic in each country would appoint half of them for two renewable years.

The Nile Valley Parliament is alternately presided over by the presidents of the Egyptian and the Sudanese People's Assembly for a term extending until the beginning of the next regular session.

At least two-thirds of the members constitute the parliament's quorum. Meetings are public. Closed meetings may be held at the request of the head of the session or two-thirds of the members.

Thoughts and views expressed by members while performing their duties in the parliament are not charged as offensive. No criminal action is to be taken against any parliament member, nor may be arrested.

Before he performs his duties, a member is to take this oath before the Nile Valley Parliament: "I swear in the name of God the Almighty to sincerely safeguard the integrity of the republics of Egypt and the Sudan and their republican regions, and to protect the interests of the people and respect the constitution in each country and the integration charter between them.

The interim rules of procedures of the Nile Valley Parliament are composed of 142 articles. Article 139 states that the head of the parliament will arrange for the special procedures by which deliberations during meetings of the parliament and its committees are assimilated by the various mass print and

electronic media, to facilitate the task of media representatives in printing and broadcasting discussions accurately.

Article 129 states that the parliament's budget is independent and is recorded as one figure in the integration budget.

Article 20 states that, to be passed, resolutions and recommendations of the Nile Valley Parliament have to be approved by an absolute majority of members. Article 21 states that the Nile Valley Parliament is concerned with studying and commenting on issues stated in the charter, topics referred by the Supreme Integration Council and the council's general annual report, in compliance with article 14. The same article also states that the Nile Valley Parliament is concerned with the approval of the joint draft plan for the coordination of social and economic developments, the approval of the budget and the final balance sheet, as well as with studying and proposing the objectives stated in the charter it deems capable of achieving. The parliament is to transmit its resolutions and recommendations to the Supreme Integration Council.

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POOR QUALITY IRON IMPORTS DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 13 Jul 83 p 2

[Article: "Dr 'Awwarah Emphasizes: Defective Iron Manufactured Abroad Exported Specifically To Egypt"]

[Text] Dr Ibrahim 'Awwarah, member of the People's Assembly (independent), emphasized that some circles abroad manufacture reinforced iron and cement in violation of standards, specifically for export to Egypt. 'Awwarah wondered: where was the government when the disaster of collapsing buildings occurred?

Independent and opposition members of the People's Assembly attacked the government housing policy, as being responsible for the disastrous collapse of new buildings.

Engineer Hasan Durrah, of the Labor Party, emphasized that the government applies law only to the poor.

Ulfat Kamil, of the Liberal Party, asked the government to respect the law and act to implement it without discrimination between the rich and the poor.

Ulfat Kamil also stressed that the multiplicity of legislation was behind the increasing collapse of new buildings.

She asked for the consolidation of all housing laws into one law rather than separating them into various laws and procedures.

Dr Hilmi al-Hadidi, who has recently joined the National Party, explained that law alone would not solve the problem because the matter was not limited to residential buildings, but has also been extended to government facilities, coupled with the spreading phenomenon of cheating on construction material.

Mumtaz Nassar (independent) called for the elimination of blatant inadequacies in the legislation issued to organize owner-tenant relations because such laws contributed in worsening the housing problem, increasing incidents of manipulation and deviation, and cheating on construction material.

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SINAI COMMITTEE PROPOSES DAM, FACTORY, COAL PROJECTS

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Jun 83 p 8

[Article by Fu'ad al-Shadhili: "Supreme Committee For Sinai Development Decides: Constructing a Dam to Store Water in al-'Arish Valley and a Cement Factory; and Giving Priority to the Al-Magharah Coal Project"]

[Text] In its meeting under the chairmanship of Dr Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din yesterday, the Supreme Committee for Sinai Development approved the construction of a cement factory in al-Hasanah region, north of Sinai. Scheduled for the 1983/84 plan, the factory will have a five million ton capacity and the project will include a settlement for personnel housing.

Counselor 'Adil Abd-al-Baqi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, stated that the committee also approved of conducting an economic feasibility study for the construction of a dam to store water in the Dab'ah region in the al-'Arish Valley. A LE 70,000 allocation has been set for this purpose.

Maximum storage capacity of the dam is estimated at 40 million cubic meters to be used for expanding agriculture on a 20,000-feddan area. The project will cost LE 10 million.

The committee agreed to consider the utilization of al-Magharah coal a priority project in the Sinai development plan. The project's maximum capacity is estimated at 600,000 tons annually, including 150,000 tons to be used by the coke factory in Helwan to produce the coal necessary for production at the iron and steel factory. The rest will be used for the electric power generation station in the 'Uyun Musa region.

Gross costs of al-Magharah coal utilization are estimated at LE 98 million. The project will provide 600 job opportunities.

A housing settlement for the factory personnel and their families will be built on the mining site, a 120-kilometer long railway line will be extended to link both al-Hasanah and al-Magharah with Isma'iliyah, and another line will connect al-Magharah with Bi'r al-'Abd. Financing the project through foreign loans will be studied.

The committee reviewed the production and service projects which have already been implemented in the Sinai Peninsula during the current fiscal year. LE

211 million has been invested in these projects, in addition to LE 9.5 million allocated for easy housing loans.

During the first nine months of the current fiscal year, 72 percent of the projects in north Sinai have been implemented and 69 percent in south Sinai.

The committee also reviewed the five-year education plan in which some LE 13 million is being invested. The plan aims at building and equipping 80 schools to accommodate 50,000 boys and girls.

The construction of 180 schools and nine associated divisions has been completed during the current fiscal year. They accommodate 33,000 boys and girls. The investment amounted to LE two million.

The number of students registered in the universities has reached 2,500.

A center for ecological research has been constructed at St. Catherine at a cost of LE 10,000. The center will conduct mining and underground water research.

Also in operation is the Faculty of Teachers' Training in al-'Arish, which includes an annex for agricultural research.

The committee reviewed next year's projects, including the completion of the 110-kilometer Abu-Rudays-Ahmad Hamdi waterline, and al-Qantarrah-Dayr al-'Abd-al-'Arish waterline.

Eighty-seven percent of this project was completed by the end of March.

Also reviewed was the completion of the waterline east of the lakes, and the construction of six desalination plants north and south of Sinai. The project will have a daily capacity of 350 cubic meters.

The plan includes the development of al-'Arish and St. Catherine airports, completing the connection of north and south Sinai to the telephone network, the development of al-'Arish and al-Tur hospitals, and the construction of a health unit in Kuntilla.

12357

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GAS MARKETING AGREEMENT SIGNED

Kuwait ARAB OIL in English No 7, Jul 83 p 43

[Text] **Q**atar has signed a memorandum of understanding with British Petroleum Company PLC (BP) and Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (CFP) to exploit gas reserves off its northeast coast.

The memorandum was signed here in Doha last month by Qatar's Minister of Finance and Petroleum Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Khalifa Al-Thani and representatives from BP and CFP, which would each have a 7.5 percent stake in the project, estimated to cost between five and six billion dollars.

Sheikh Abdulaziz told the Qatari news agency the signing of the memorandum would be followed later this year by the setting up of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) company.

He said the north gas field project aimed at exploiting the state's more than 100 trillion cubic feet of gas to meet its needs for power generation, desalination, industry and agriculture, as well as provide feedstock for a planned six million tonne a year LNG plant.

Other partners could be brought in later for marketing purposes, but the foreign stake in the project would not exceed 30 percent. The state-owned Qatar General Petroleum Corporation will hold 70 to 85 percent of the shares.

The structure, located only few kilometers north of the Gulf peninsula state of Qatar is said to contain one of the world's largest reserves of natural gas.

Muhammad Said al Mis'hal, executive director of QGPC, told Khaleej Times that the project will be located about 10 kilo-

meters from the present industrial units in Umm Said. The aim is to be able to produce 20,000 million cubic feet of gas. Of this, nearly 12,000 million cubic feet will be for export and the rest, for domestic consumption, he added.

Besides liquefied natural gas (LNG) the project will include production of 50,000 to 70,000 bpd of naphtha and four million tons of natural gas liquids (NGL), Mis'hal said.

Outlay

"We are not sure of the sulphur content of the gas, but by our estimate it should be possible to produce some 40,000 tons of sulphur", the paper quoted them as saying. He said the \$5 billion outlay was an initial estimate, which could change according to market conditions as the project gets under way.

A separate company will be formed to finance and manage the north field project. According to Mis'hal 30 percent of the capital will come from shareholders and the rest from international banking institutions, including loans, not only from the Qatar government but possibly from other governments. The governments of the countries represented by the participating companies might extend loans, he said.

There would be two parts to the projects — one exclusively for LNG and the other for field development of NGL, naphtha. BP and CFP will be offered 7.5 percent each of the shares in the development and export of the LNG. Another 15 percent will be set aside for any new participants who might come in at a later stage or to increase the stake of BP and CFP.

DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION, REGIONAL ASPECTS REVIEWED

Paris LE MONDE in French 29, 30 Jun, 1, 2 Jul 83

[Article by Eric Rouleau: "Syria or the Snare"]

[Text] While in Tunis, Yasir 'Arafat steps up his pacifying statements on Syria, the situation in the Biqa', where Fatah loyalists are surrounded by Syrians, remains disturbing. On the night of 27-28 June, Fatah dissidents tried repeatedly to move toward positions held by 'Arafat's supporters, but were driven back.

In a series of four articles, the first of which is published today, Eric Rouleau describes the domestic situation in Syria, which has lived under a state of emergency for 20 years.

I. People's Palace

Syrians speak only in a whisper, passing from one to another descriptions of the "thing" that border on the fantastic. The unknown quite naturally gives rise to legends in a country where the government deliberately cultivates mystery. People's Palace, inaccessible to the common mortal since construction began 3 years ago, is said to be, not the headquarters of the Office of the President, but a formidable fortress. The chief of state and his close aides allegedly have the intention of digging in there, surrounded by armed cohorts, heavy artillery and antiaircraft guns. The "citadel" is reportedly equipped with a network of tunnels and an airport making it possible to break any future siege.

A discreet visit to the site enables one to correct the image projected by public rumor. The People's Palace is not like the Elysee, the White House or even the Kremlin. The state of war in which Syria has lived for 35 years, the regime it has chosen for itself, the powers which its leader, Hafiz al-Asad, has chosen for himself, and his personality would not lend themselves to it. The design, architectural style and site chosen definitely correspond to a military vision of power. The presidential complex, made up of four buildings, is perched like an eagle's nest on a hill occupying a strategic position.

Situated at the intersection of major highways leading to the borders: one to Lebanon, another to the Golan occupied by Israel and the third to the airport, the view is enough to take one's breath away. From his windows, the chief of state will have a panorama of the entire capital and the surrounding area.

One of the buildings, the least impressive, will house the private apartments of the president. Here, the military man gives way to the villager of yore, born 55 years ago to a peasant family in the al-Ladhiqiyah region. Five small rooms on one floor (where he will live with his wife and children), a tiny bathroom, bedroom, study, gym, all with bay windows.

On the ground floor is a huge patio with fountains, surrounded by a living room, dining area and sitting rooms, two of which are reserved for amateurs of the large or small screen.

The relative simplicity of this residence is in contrast with the splendor of the presidential palace, whose immensity and facade, on a scale with the pan-Arab ambitions of the leader of Syria, a member of the Ba'th Party since his adolescence, reminds one of the temples of the Pharaohs. A cathedral door, imposing colonnades and monumental stairway will introduce the foreign visitor into a sumptuous whole comprised of countless meeting rooms, reception halls, ceremonial salons able to accommodate a thousand guests, theaters -- including an amphitheater -- and, on the first floor, the offices of the president and his close aides. It is said that the decoration will achieve a harmonious blend of the function with the Damascus marquetry and the Andalusian arabesques.

The two other buildings bear witness to the extensive prerogatives of General al-Asad. One of them will house the chief of state's special advisers, who will ensure liaison with the Cabinet. It will serve as a meeting place for the Cabinet, Ba'th leaders, leaders of the National Front (the coalition of parties theoretically in power), and perhaps even the Armed Forces High Command, all presided over by the "supreme leader of the nation." The fourth building in the complex, standing on a nearby hill, is the "Guest Palace," designed to accommodate up to four chiefs of state and their entourages. Foreign policy is also -- is it necessary to mention it? -- the province of al-Asad.

There are no secret tunnels designed to evacuate occupants of the "fortress." On the other hand, a concrete slab has been installed to serve as a heliport, useful for official travels, and a shelter is planned in the palace basement, not surprising when one realizes that the palace is within range of Israeli artillery, scarcely 20 kilometers away as the crow flies. Another plan: The sinister Mezze Prison building of sad repute glimpsed on the flank of a nearby hill will be destroyed and its occupants transferred elsewhere.

Political power is in the image of the People's Palace. The constitution proclaims that "the Syrian Republic is democratic, of the people and socialist," before guaranteeing, in various articles, all individual and collective freedoms. However, most of them have been suspended in keeping with the provisions of the state of siege, also perfectly "legal." The fundamental law confers on

the chief of state the right to dictate exceptional measures when a "serious danger threatens the national unity or the security and independence of the national territory." Syria is in fact threatened, from the outside by Israel and at home, by the "counterrevolutionaries," specifically, the Muslim Brotherhood. The state of siege, instituted precisely 20 years ago after the Ba'th Party came to power, is therefore still in effect. Whence the arbitrariness, abuses and sometimes crimes committed in the name of the national interest.

The media are subjected to censorship that becomes a caricature, so draconian is it. Foreign publications, whose importation has been a government monopoly for a year, are often banned for futile reasons. Freedom of expression has practically been confiscated, although the government generally tolerates criticisms leveled privately.

Intimidation is deemed to be manifestly more effective than the weapon of terror. New identity cards are issued to citizens only following a long police investigation. The *moukhabarat* (secret services) are omnipresent, in government offices, the lycees and universities, trade unions and political parties. The state of emergency still authorizes preventive arrests and detentions of indeterminate length and during which, according to Amnesty International, torture is commonly practiced, along with occasional executions. Interrogations can no longer be counted. According to one estimate, some 2,000 to 3,000 suspects, mostly Muslim Brotherhood members, but also Ba'thists, Nasserians and dissident communists, have been questioned since the beginning of the year. The number of political prisoners remains unknown, but rumor has it at between 5,000 and 10,000. The killings in the city of Hama in February 1982 remain engraved in everyone's memories.

It is true that the Muslim Brotherhood has given authorities some reason for the repression. The urban guerrilla warfare they have practiced for 7 years, bombings, summary executions and murders have taken the lives of several thousand persons, plain citizens, but also high government and party officials, judges, professors, loyalist shaykhs. But it is equally true that the government has used them to step up or develop security forces. The regular army, the defense brigades (headed by Rifaat al-Asad, brother of the president), the special units of Gen Ali Haydar, the gendarmerie, paramilitary militias made up of Ba'thists, workers trade unions, peasants and students join together to rake the country in the fullest sense of the word.

One cannot move about in Syria without running into one of these forces or another. Men in uniform or civilian dress, machine gun in hand, guard airports, official buildings, radio and television facilities, the universities, party headquarters and the residences of dignitaries of the regime. On the roads, at city gates and downtown, they carry out searches and demand proof of identity.

There is military surveillance, but political organization and a democratic facade as well. The People's Assembly (parliament) and the National Front, which includes the Ba'th Party and four other groups represented in government, serve as monitoring chambers. The Ba'th Party, which has the majority of seats in both, is the only one to have the right to engage in activities in the army

and educational establishments, to maintain headquarters throughout the country and to publish newspapers. The other parties in the coalition have to be content to distribute their publications semi-officially, to criticize some generally secondary aspect of domestic policy, foreign affairs being off limits. The Communist Party of Khalid Baghdash and Yusif Faykal, the main partner of the Ba'th, permitted itself to denounce the "parasitic capitalism" maintained by the government and to call for an "expansion of freedoms." It was "punished" two years ago and despite the 150,000 votes it gathered, "fate" decreed that none of its candidates would be elected to parliament!

Following a strike launched in support of a petition demanding the abolition of the state of emergency and the restoration of public freedoms, a number of professional associations: lawyers, engineers, doctors, pharmacists and writers, mainly, were deprived of their leaders in March 1980 (most were arrested) and then placed under the tutelage of the Ba'th, which also controls unions of workers and peasants, as well as of students, women, and so on.

The latest refinement in the "lineup" of the population is furnished by the "socialism" of the Ba'th. Nationalization of the economy has definitely given rise to undeniable benefits. It has encouraged accelerated development in terms of respect for national sovereignty, done away with the feudal class and that of the great industrial owners -- although a much more rapacious "new bourgeoisie" has long since taken their place -- and has given many social advantages to the deprived classes.

The fact nevertheless remains that the other side of the state-providence coin displays the face of the state-boss. Some 4 million Syrians, four out of ten derive their daily bread from it (figure obtained by multiplying the 1 million wage earners employed by the government: military men, members of the various security forces, civil servants, employees of the public sector, teachers, and so on, by 4, the average size of a family). Nor does this count the millions of peasants and their families who depend on it indirectly for the sale and marketing of their products. Consequently, one can imagine the means of pressure available to authorities. Let us mention but two stipulated by law: A government employee can be fired for a "serious mistake" (left up to the discretion of his superiors), but he can also be sentenced to 3 years in prison if he resigns without the express authorization of the minister under whom he serves. Any citizen of military age is a reservist who can be called up at any time for an unspecified length of time, whatever his means, profession and family responsibilities. Refusal to obey the mobilization order is punishable by 2 months to 7 years in prison.

As a result of the state of war and the Islamic sedition, the militarization of Syrian society has ended up by turning democratic institutions, including the Ba'th Party, into screens scarcely concealing the power of the army. Entrusted by the constitution with the task of defending the territorial integrity and the objectives of the revolution, the latter has gradually taken the place of government machinery in main fields, especially domestic security, education, major economic enterprises, (somewhat illicit) commerce, thus becoming the mainstay and partner of various categories of "haves" whose interests are not always avowable.

President al-Asad definitely holds the reins of power, but the People's Palace he is building for himself will also belong to the generals.

[30 Jun 83 p 5]

[Text] For 20 years, Syria has been living under a state of emergency, which makes it possible to suspend public and individual freedoms contained in the constitution. As a result of wars and the Islamic revolt, the army holds power behind a "democratic" facade. (LE MONDE, 29 June)

Alep--Gaiety reigns among the 400 guests celebrating under the sparking lights of the Club d'Alep, the only establishment in vogue in the northern metropolis of Syria. While an army of white-coated servants offer rounds of appetizers, brochettes, roasted lamb, mountains of brown rice flavored with toasted almonds, while they empty bottles of whisky and champagne amidst the din of conversations punctuated by laughter, young people contort themselves to the frantic rhythms of the "jerk" or the "chicken." Shortly, their elders will glide over the floor to the beat of the tango or walse.

The quadrille would have better suited the outdated charm of the Club d'Alep, whose architecture, aging furnishings and clientele remind one of the nostalgic atmosphere recreated in the Visconti decors of "Death in Venice." Once reserved for an elite of landowners, big merchants and bankers, mainly Christians imbued with French culture, it hosted candlelight suppers and concerts, served the finest delicacies which the Alep aristocracy offered to its foreign guests. At the crossroads of caravan routes since time immemorial, Alep was until the end of the 1950's the economic metropolis and breeding grounds of the political world of Syria.

The succession of agrarian reforms, nationalizations and expropriations that hit the wealthy -- first under the regime of the union with Nasser's Egypt (1958-1961), then under that of the Ba'th starting in 1963 -- the centralization of economic power in Damascus, the break with Iraq, the back country and "bridge" to the Gulf markets, finally reduced Alep to the rank of subprefecture.

Here, the old bourgeoisie, as in the rest of the country, is not therefore dead. "It has nine lives, like a cat," one of its members told us. Many have emigrated to Europe or the United States, where they have invested their funds in American or Swiss banks. Those who stayed behind continue to live in sumptuous family homes, surrounded by period pieces, objets d'art and paintings worthy of being exhibited in museums and which they proudly point out to visitors. "I got my revenge. I am much richer now than I was before the socialist measures," some of them say.

Nouveaux Riches

Because of the scarcity of servants -- "What do you expect? They are now in power!" -- the traditional bourgeois do not entertain at home and find it easier to invite their friends to dine at the Club d'Alep. It is not difficult to pick out their table, around which the women are discreetly elegant and

at which one usually hears a polished French spoken. Without seeing them, they rub elbows with the "nouveaux riches" created by the Ba'thist regime and whom they label as "parvenus."

The latter, who speak broken English, display their wealth. Their wives buy their clothes from the major Parisian or New York couturiers and their necks are bowed down by the weight of diamonds. In order to entertain their guests at home or at "the Club," they spend huge sums on orchestras, famous singers and belly dancers.

The well-to-do Syrians celebrate without restraint or inhibitions before the supporters of the "socialist" government. Among the guests at the Club d'Alep one frequently sees high government officials or leaders of the Ba'th Party carousing. Or they are at the Damascus cabarets with evocative names such as "The Crazy Horse," "Caves du Roy," "Les Annees Folles," where a bottle of whisky costs 600 francs, a fourth of the monthly salary of a high official.

It is a secret to no one: Many officials in the public sector and dignitaries of the regime, whether civilian or military, are part of what is commonly called called the bureaucratic bourgeoisie, in partnership with or, if one prefers, in complicity with two other categories of the wealthy. These nouveaux riches generally come from rural backgrounds, the original base of the Ba'th and speak only Arabic. They owe their social rise to the positions of power they occupy just as much as to the services rendered by "cosmopolitan" compatriots who play the middleman in international transactions. In 10 years, according to one estimate, some 5,000 new millionaires were created by the Ba'thist Government.

System of the "Three C's"

The main sources of wealth, legal or illegal, have to do more with *affairisme* than with orthodox business. The "D System" in other countries is equivalent here to the system of the "three C's": brokerage (*courtage*), contraband and corruption. The first of the three consists of deducting substantial commissions on contracts made between nationalized enterprises and foreign firms, commissions divided up by courtiers serving as hidden mediators between the contracting parties. When one realizes that the government is the sole entrepreneur for major development projects, that it handles 80 percent of all imports and 90 percent of all exports, one can better measure the extent of the fortunes amassed by private parties and one can understand how certain officials, whom rumor designates by name, have been able in just a few years to acquire farms, orchards, luxurious residences, not only in Syria, but in Europe and the United States as well.

Another bastard child of economic planning is smuggling, also practiced on a large scale. All products whose importation is banned or which are subject to quotas or even to the government monopoly are available on the black market, sometimes at reasonable prices because they escape taxes and customs duties. This parallel trade almost goes on in broad daylight, despite prison terms stipulated for those involved, both buyers and sellers.

The foreign cigarettes sold on street corners are available to visitors in ministerial offices. American refrigerators, German television sets or Italian air conditioners, officially banned from the country in order to protect local manufacturers, are displayed in the backrooms of specialized stores. According to the estimates of a high official in the Ministry of Economy, some 100,000 video tape recorders have been smuggled into the country. Ladies in high society exchange addresses where they can buy designer dresses, perfumes and other luxury items.

Illegal products are unloaded at ports or cross unbothered the Turkish, Jordanian and especially Lebanese borders, thanks to the obvious complacency of well-placed officials. "The biggest smuggler in the country is the army," we were told by one businessman who opened suitable offices in Beirut and Baalbeck. Military trucks use roads reserved for them and are subject to no control, especially if they have orders signed by higher officers. The rest is done by bribes.

Common in most developing countries, corruption has spread in Syria "in less than 15 years," notes one Damascus merchant. He adds: "A civil servant used to take offense if he were even offered a trifle. Now I have to give big bribes at all levels of the administration in order to get the slightest thing done."

Laxity was encouraged by the "liberalization" decreed with the coming to power of President al-Asad in November 1970, the influx of Arab capital after the 1973-1974 oil boom, the startup of ambitious and sometimes useful development projects -- "cathedrals in the desert" -- the absence of any democratic control, and finally, the political determination to consolidate the bases of the regime, to spare a bourgeoisie all the greedier the closer it came to power or even the use of power.

Strangled Bourgeoisie?

The government did try to fight the system of the three C's, but half-heartedly. The law on the elimination of "illicit profit" was rarely applied and only to underlings. For example, the recent public hanging of a bank employee for embezzling a few million francs gave rise to more pity than fear.

And yet, the economic situation no longer allows for leniency. The torrent has been reduced to a meager flow of petrodollars, foreign exchanges is increasingly rare, and the needs of the government and of the citizens are growing in a society that was imprudently doomed to consumption. The deficit in the trade balance has reached alarming proportions: Exports now cover only 40 percent of the cost of imports. In order to halt inflation and the devaluation of the pound, the authorities have to take various recovery measures.

The first parties targeted are the importers, who for 2 years have been forced to pay the government an advance of 25 to 70 percent of the exchange value of their orders in order to receive a letter of credit rarely issued in less than 6 months. Furthermore, they have to buy foreign exchange at a higher price than the official rate used for purchases of the public sector (5.4 Syrian

pounds to the dollar, compared with 3.9). The lists of products whose importation is banned or which come under the government monopoly are growing longer and longer. The beneficial result for the public treasury -- purchases abroad have dropped 50 percent since 1981 -- is detrimental to the profits of merchants and the supplying of small and medium-size private enterprises, some of which have had to file for bankruptcy.

After foreign trade comes domestic trade. Having virtually taken the place of wholesalers (to the extent of 80 percent of all business), the government recently began to try to impose its hegemony over retailers who still hold 70 percent of the market. The government is accelerating the expansion of its network of supermarkets, whose number will increase from 892 to 1,232 in the next two years and which sell better products less expensively than those of private shops. Furthermore, the regulation of rents and the seizure of land within and outside the limits of settlements and cities have checked real estate speculation considerably. Until the end of the last decade, it was one of the main sources of fortunes. While nearly all officials try to appear optimistic, the governor of Hama, Mohamed Harba, trained at our universities, observes: "Of course! We are going to liquidate the parasitic bourgeoisie, which has never invested anything or produced anything at all!"

Is the high life at the Club d'Alep a sham then? One is tempted to believe so at the end of an evening when alcohol loosens tongues: "The private sector is on its deathbed," grumbles one big merchant. Less resigned, another angrily adds: "Of course! They are strangling us in order to make Syria a more communist country than the people's democracies, but we will loosen their hold because we are stronger than they are!"

Whatever the case, all the rich, including the supporters of the regime, realize that the period of the fatted calf is long gone, even if it is true that the structures of government guarantee the survival of the "bureaucratic bourgeoisie" and its associates for a long time to come.

[1 Jul 83 p 5]

[Text] Wars and domestic sedition have led the Syrian Army to exercise real political and economic power. Some officers, along with high officials and middlemen close to them, have grown rich in an illicit manner. The austerity instituted under the pressure of the situation has caused grumbling among bourgeois businessmen (see LE MONDE, 29, 30 June).

Damascus--What useful object increases in value with age? The answer to the riddle, at least for Syrians, is easy: Used cars have steadily gone up in price for years. A. B., a doctor in Damascus, will tell you that the Renault he sold in December for 88,000 Syrian pounds cost him 32,000 in 1975 and is now worth 100,000 (the Syrian pound is worth about 1.3 francs). The new Mazda he bought for 110,000 pounds in February has doubled in value!

Our interlocutor is one of the 28,000 private parties who have received the Japanese vehicle they ordered 2 years ago by paying 80 percent of the price to

the government, which has the monopoly. He is delighted, although he knows he paid four times the normal price for the car, the difference including taxes and customs duties. The government is also properly pleased. "We have won on all counts," explains Abdel Kader Kaddoura, vice president of the economic council. Actually, one should add to the net profit made other benefits derived from the operation. Let the reader be the judge: The government obtained from the suppliers easy payment terms for 5 years, which enables it to invest the sum of 1.2 billion pounds paid in cash by the buyers. Furthermore, the tapping of liquid assets in cash helps master inflation and stabilize the value of the currency. It should not then be at all surprising that the government is getting ready to import a new shipment of cars under the same conditions.

Without such maneuvers, the Syrian economy would not have had the spectacular achievements that do not fail to impress foreign observers. Despite limited and vulnerable financial resources, despite military expenditures that absorb two-thirds of the operating budget, the Ba'thist Government has, among other things, given the country road and rail systems, expanded and modernized the ports and airports, built hospitals, universities and stadiums, developed land snatched from the desert and swamps, taken electricity and drinking water to hundreds of villages. In the past 2 years, it has reduced the inflation rate by half (from 25 to 12 percent approximately) and revalued the Syrian pound upward, despite the sharp increase in the dollar and shooting prices on the world market.

Although credits allocated for national security in this year's budget are twice as high as those allowed for education, public health, social security and subsidies for basic commodities, Syrians are among the people the most well-off in the region. At any rate, the Ba'thist republic has no "pockets of poverty." The despotism engendered by the patron-state goes hand in hand with the material security provided by the state-providence. Plethoric hiring in the public sector, the burgeoning armed forces and the Pretorian cohorts, the emigration of nearly a million laborers and skilled workers, members of the liberal professions, definitely hurt the country, but they have helped greatly to relieve unemployment.

Inadequate Material Advantages

Assured of a job, the Syrian citizen also enjoys a free education, from kindergarten through the university, and medical care at state institutions. The government provides a whole host of products: bread, rice, sugar, oil, fuel oil, powdered milk for babies, pharmaceutical products, at prices that are only one-half, one-third or even one-fourth those in neighboring countries. For example, bread costs three times more in Beirut than in Damascus. Sugar (rationed, along with oil and rice) is sold at government supermarkets at 1 pound per kilogram, compared with 3.5 pounds at the local grocery store. It is true that in the first case, one would have to resign oneself to occasional shortages and long lines.

Farmers, to whom the Ba'thist regime devotes great concern, receive low-interest loans and machinery, seed and fertilizer from the government at prices under

cost. On the other hand, they are forced to turn over their entire grain production at prices set by the government, prices that are "reasonable" in most cases and "generous" when it is a matter of wheat (indispensable to feed the people) and cotton (one of the sources of foreign exchange). Nevertheless, most cooperatives of small farmers have a shortage because of their inability to manage in a rational manner properties cut up by successive agrarian reforms and obstacles raised by a cumbersome bureaucracy.

Civil servants have more reason to complain. Their salaries, which are not indexed on the cost of living (they were increased only once in 1980 in proportions ranging from 25 to 70 percent), are more modest. They go from 1,000 to 4,500 pounds (for a minister), before deduction of the tax, which takes an average of one-third of the salary. The fact that the salary scale is based, not on the post occupied by on university diplomas -- an engineer or professor, for example, can earn more than a provincial governor or the general director of a minister -- constitutes but a mediocre consolation.

Actually, despite the regulation of rents, none of the salaries mentioned would be enough to pay the rent on a four-room apartment, unless one is lucky enough to live in a building built before 1970. Unfortunately, the doubling of the population since the coming of the Ba'th to power 20 years ago) and the rural migration have resulted in an unprecedented housing crisis. While families are crowded together in tiny rooms and hundreds of thousands of young people give up marriage or postpone it for lack of housing, the city of Damascus alone has 60,000 unoccupied apartments. The second paradox: Claiming to "respect private property," the government refuses to requisition it. On the other hand, it has planned housing complexes sold at cost, without thereby being within reach of every pocketbook. Lacking adequate loans, the volume and speed of construction would prevent resorption of the crisis for several decades (modest apartments cost from 2,000 to 6,000 Syrian pounds per square meter, while those in the better districts cost between 500,000 and 3 million pounds a unit, 40 to 50 times their worth in 1965). One can therefore understand why the authorities close their eyes when civil servants let themselves be bribed or, more honestly, desert their offices to engage in lucrative "moonlighting."

Democles Sword

Like nearly all Third World countries, Syria lives beyond its means and it is essentially thanks to the financial aid of Arab states that it manages to make ends meet. Because it is the only one to stand up to Israel since the separate peace concluded by Egypt, participants in the 1979 Arab summit conference granted it an annual income of \$1.85 billion. However, Iraq, Libya and Algeria do not pay their share, leaving it up to Saudi Arabia and certain Gulf countries to finance the war effort of the Ba'thist republic. Last year, Syria received only \$750 million, if one is to believe the vice president of the council, Kaddoura. The Democles sword is still suspended over Syria's head, which causes Kaddoura to say: "We do not want to be at the mercy of political vicissitudes or the moods of a given Arab chief of state."

Whence the many measures taken to rehabilitate government finances. Mining production (phosphate and oil) and farming have been intensified with some success, with the exception of wheat and barley, whose crops are down somewhat. For the first time in 15 years, according to Kaddoura, the public sector had a surplus of some 900 million pounds in 1982. Rapprochement with Khomeyni's Iran, despite serious ideological and political differences, made it possible to compensate for Iraq's default, obtaining from Tehran from 6 to 7 million tons of crude, including 1 million free. With the help of an austerity budget, Syria managed to limit its foreign debt, according to the World Bank, to \$4.2 billion, a relatively modest amount considering its development program and military expenditures.

It is true that the known public debt no longer includes debts contracted to the Soviet Union (essentially for the purchase of weapons), which are included in different account books kept secret. One presumes that Moscow has extended long-term loans at low interest rates to Damascus.

Despite the favorable conditions on which the USSR generally grants loans to its "friends," President al'Asad has always favored trade with the West, particularly the EEC, which remains Syria's top-ranking partner. However, following a constant decline for the past 10 years, trade with Eastern countries has recently begun to increase. On the one hand, restrictions imposed on the private sector, delays in settling accounts and the blunders of a shaky administration have discouraged many Western firms. On the other hand, the increasing financial difficulties which Syria is experiencing encourage it to turn toward more accommodating suppliers, especially when the latter provide the Ba'thist republic with the means, both political and military, of defending itself.

"Our leaders," one businessman told us, "are cautious tightrope walkers who have surrounded themselves with many safety nets, one of which consists of physically eliminating those who might endanger the existence, even the stability, of the regime."

[2 Jul 83 p 5]

[Text] Despite the considerable damage inflicted on the Syrian economy by the "bureaucratic bourgeoisie," on the one hand, and the "new millionaires" of the private sector, on the other, the economy is developing thanks to the "high wire act" of shrewd managers. The army exercises growing power, mainly because of its role as a "guardian of the revolution" (see LE MONDE, 29, 30 June and 1 July).

Hama--The city is a vast work site. Bulldozers push through wide avenues, while shrubs are being planted alongside. Buildings are going up; others being restored. Masons perched on scaffoldings use trowels to patch gaping holes in the facades. What was once the poor district of Hader is unrecognizable. Could it have been destroyed by an earthquake? Aside from its new part, the skeletons of buildings alternate with empty lots strewn with debris.

Hama will eventually wipe away the traces of the horror and shame, even if its residents never forget the killings that sent them into mourning last year. The trauma is too recent for them to be able to speak about it openly. One has to press them with questions in order to be able to reconstruct the fabric of the tragedy by comparing accounts.

In the middle of the night on 3 February 1982, the people of the city were awakened by a call to arms broadcast over loudspeakers atop the minarets. A voice called: "Allahou Akbar! (God is the mightiest!) The atheist regime is being defeated throughout Syria! Muslims of Hama, it is your turn to throw yourselves into the holy war (*djihad*)! Present yourselves at the mosques, where weapons will be handed out to you to drive out the infidels!" It was three o'clock in the morning.

Two hours earlier, Muslim Brotherhood commandos, some 500 Mojahedin armed with submachine guns and howitzers had sneaked into the city and occupied the strategic positions. At the right signal, they attacked or burned the buildings of the security forces, police stations, headquarters of the secret police, Ba'th Party headquarters and the residences of leaders, including that of the governor. Besieged with his wife and children, the latter, Mohamed Harba, formerly professor of geography and the holder of a doctoral degree from the University of Montpellier, was fired upon along with his bodyguards, two of whom were seriously wounded.

Execution of "Atheists"

Other Ba'thist or communist leaders, surprised in their beds, were murdered in cold blood. Armed with "black lists," the commandos went from door to door, liquidating "supporters of the regime." At the same time, their backers held summary trials. Mohamed El Habbal, worker and secretary of the CP branch in Hama, was sentenced to death by an "Islamic tribunal" presided over by one of his neighbors. "I could never have imagined that he belonged to the Brotherhood," he reported, "because he was drunk from morning to night." Other neighbors, these true friends, helped him to escape *in extremis*. Less lucky, some 250 "atheists" were executed during the four days which the occupation of the city by the Muslim Brotherhood lasted.

During that time, authorities seemed to hesitate about the choice of means suitable for quelling the rebellion, so high were the stakes. The city, exclusively Muslim, Sunnite and ultraconservative, has rebelled more than once since the Ba'th had come to power 20 years before, risking to take the northern region of the country, a kind of Vendee of Syria, along with it in dissidence. The Muslim Brotherhood roused the sympathy of the opposition of all stripes, even those resolutely lay in nature, for it was viewed as the spearhead of the liberating fight.

The ideology and program of the Brotherhood have elements capable of luring various strata of the population. The upper bourgeoisie, hurt by nationalization measures, are not the only ones to rejoice over the fact that the Syrian Islamic movement, deeming private property "sacred," preaches free enterprise and condemns agrarian reform, nationalizations and restrictions placed upon

domestic and foreign trade. The poorer among them could be happy when promised social justice, elimination of corruption and nepotism and the restoration of freedoms and the multiparty system, especially if they are unaware that the "atheists" and groups "under the influence of foreign powers" will be automatically banned from that divine society. As for the fanatics and the mystics, it was the "fighting avant-garde" of Adnan Okla, one of the dissident branches of the Brotherhood, that would reassure them by proclaiming that the future "government of God" will have a monopoly over truth and power.

Merciless Repression

And yet, all the factions of the Islamic movement concentrated their fire on two "flaws" of the Ba'thist regime: its lay nature and its Alids character.* The first of the two accusations was founded on fact: According to the terms of the constitution, Islam is not the state religion and the government pushed its neutrality to the extent of declaring both Christian and Muslim holy days as holidays. The second criticism is only admissible if one considers the Alids as "infidels" condemned to "choose between conversion and exile," to use the words of one leader of the "fighting avant-garde of the Muslim Brotherhood" (LE MATIN, 7 September 1982). It is also admissible if one deems it intolerable for members of a religious minority to occupy the presidency of the republic and key posts in the army and security forces. It is obvious that the Islamic movement plays on these two pictures, both religious and political, in order to mobilize the people against the regime.

The revolt in Hama in February 1982 was aimed, as was subsequently learned, at spreading throughout the country, acting as a catalyst for a coup d'etat. Two weeks previously, authorities had foiled a plot in the air force and feared that another such conspiracy would be crowned with success. Whence the 4-day delay, used to send reinforcements to various strategic regions, and the savagery of the intervention against the rebel city. The order given to the security forces and the Ba'thist militia combined was brutal in its simplicity: Crush the uprising, whatever the cost.

The Ba'thist soldiers gave no quarter. For a week, they killed, looted and raped. Apartment buildings, public buildings, mosques, churches in which the Islamic snipers took shelter were shelled by heavy artillery, while street fighting went on between the loyalist forces and the Mojahedin. In the course of raids that proceeded district by district, entire families of suspects were lined up at the doorways of their homes and executed on the spot. Those who tried to flee the city, followed by troops, were shot down. The bodies were buried in common graves.

* The Alids, or "followers of Ali," Mahomet's cousin and an unfortunate candidate for his succession, belong to the Shiite wing of Islam. Because their doctrine entails secret rites for initiates, the Sunnite fundamentalists have grouped them together throughout the centuries with Crypto-Christians, idolaters, all "infidels." The Alids community, some 10 percent of the total population, inhabits the mountains bearing their name in western Syria.

Thousands of Dead

The number of victims will probably never be known. Estimates made on the spot vary between 8,000 and 35,000 dead and missing among the civilian population. To this one must add the some 500 Mojahedin and the 3,000 to 5,000 members of the security forces reportedly killed during the confrontations.

Whatever the case, beyond a certain point, horror can no longer be computed. However well-founded the repression may have been, as one government supporter nevertheless critical of the way it was carried out told us, the "excesses" committed by the forces of order are "unpardonable." But, he added, that was the exorbitant price of the regime's victory.

Decimated, divided and disoriented, the Muslim Brotherhood "temporarily" suspended their attacks which, before the events in Hama, had already cost the lives of thousands. Their popularity has reached a record low, for public opinion judges their "recklessness" harshly. They have disappointed the opposition groups, themselves reduced to impotence, groups that saw in them the instrument of change. Furthermore, the religious minorities, which represent nearly 40 percent of the population, now support the government more, fearful lest its fall bring about the settling of accounts, even a religious war.

The Hama uprising also gave the government an opportunity to terrorize all opponents, to tighten the links of the police net covering the country.

Without a doubt, the Ba'thist republic did consolidate its base, but did it not also undermine the future? The gap which the Hama massacre created cannot be so quickly bridged.

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SOVIET SOLDIERS RECOUNT THEIR DILEMMA IN AFGHANISTAN

Paris LIBERATION in French 5 Jul 83 pp 17-18

[Article by Savik Schuster: "Soviet Soldiers Speak About Their War in Afghanistan" Schuster was born 30 years ago in Lithuania. He left the USSR in 1971. He now works in Italy as a free-lance journalist for NEWSWEEK.]

[Text] A Lithuanian journalist, Savik Schuster, met with two groups of Soviet prisoners held in the Mujahidin camp of Allah Jirga for the past year or so. The camp is located between Quetta (Pakistan) and Qandahar (Afghanistan). Banished by the Red Army, they are waiting hopelessly, not knowing what they will do at the end of the war.

Valeriy Kiselev, a former draftee of the Red Army told me: "We had everything in the Soviet Union; we believed in our motherland. Why did they lie to us? We are not career soldiers. We are not fighting for money like the Americans. We are ordinary citizens doing our duty for our 2-year stint in the army. We gave of ourselves to learn the price of truth. An ordinary Soviet citizen knows nothing of the war in Afghanistan."

Not too long ago I met Kiselev and five other Soviet soldiers held prisoners by the Hezb-e Eslami Mujahidin in Afghanistan. They spoke openly, as do all those who have nothing to lose.

Kiselev's voice betrayed his anger, sadness and despair only toward the end of our 2-hour conversation under the surveillance of a Mujahidin major and the curious glances of a group of Afghan partisans who did not know a word of Russian. They. The whitewashed mud walls of the tiny room where we were staying continually reverberated this word, they. Kiselev stopped speaking abruptly, his eyes fixed on the surrounding mountain tops seen through the small window. He clasped his hands over his head and hid his face behind his arms, suddenly aware that his words were prisoners of a dried mud house in Allah Jirga, a Mujahidin training camp in the Afghan province of Zabol, some 180 kilometers from Quetta, the capital of Pakistani Beluchistan.

Valeriy Kiselev was caught in February 1982 while trying to sell four grenades in a village shop in the vicinity of Bagram, in the Parvan province, north of Kabul. Kiselev reminisced: "Our battalion was on active duty. The 'dembels' (nickname given in the Soviet army to the soldiers about to be discharged) had given me night

patrol duty. The 'dembels' were tough. They knew they were about to go home; they did not lift a finger and they made the 'blues' do everything. They would beat up those who did not obey and when we complained to the officers, they would beat us even harder." Kiselev told how he took shelter from the night cold inside a T55 tank in which he went to sleep; how they found him in the morning and threatened to beat him up again and have him court martialed. "That is when I got the idea of escaping and going home. I was scared. The 'dembels' had badly beaten me up the night before. I did not want to die at the age of 21. Why should I? We are not defending our country. Our fathers and mothers are not in danger. I took four grenades thinking I would exchange them for an Afghan costume. I did not want to fall into Mujahidin hands."

Valeriy Kiselev comes from Penza, an industrial town in the vicinity of Moscow, where he began to study engineering after finishing the lycée. He skipped classes for 24 hours and was expelled from school where attendance is compulsory. He was drafted in 1981. After a 6-month course in Ionava, in Lithuania, he was transferred to Fergana, an important military base in Soviet Uzbekistan, near the Afghan border. "We were wasting our time in Fergana doing construction work and one day, the military authorities ask who wanted to enlist for Afghanistan. The political instructor, a first lieutenant supposedly back from Afghanistan, gathered us around and told us that the imperialist forces had entered Pakistan to fight against the Afghan people's revolution; that Babrak Karmal was a friend of the Soviet Union and that it was our duty to defend the Afghan peasants against the reactionary mercenaries."

Kiselev's story seems so naive and unreal that it is difficult to believe it. No one knows what is happening within the Red Army in Afghanistan--we have no point of reference. There are very few Soviet war prisoners and they are scattered throughout the whole country, in the middle of those mountains where walking is the only means of communication. The few soldiers of the Red Army who were captured in 1980-1981 were executed on the spot, once, even in front of the camera of a private British television network. Mangal Hussain, the Hezb-e Eslami's spokesman, said: "We are now ready to keep them with us, but the Soviets level under their bombs the villages where we hide the war prisoners. They prefer killing their own men rather than risking the release of any information."

Conversely, the Soviet military authorities warn their soldiers not to fall into Mujahidin hands. The officers hold periodical political information meetings during which they explain that the "basmachi" (a term used in Soviet history books to refer to the armed Muslim groups who fought against Soviet law in the 1920's) will gouge the eyes of any captured Soviet soldier and cut off their ears. "The officers often spoke to us about the dangerous teams of very well trained foreign mercenaries who were supposed to have entered Afghanistan through Pakistan." One of his companions interrupts him: "Many Soviet soldiers would like to flee the war in Afghanistan, but their families are back home and they could be victims of reprisals. Furthermore, it is not easy to desert. You never know from where is coming the bullet that will hit you."

The six Soviet soldiers I met in Allah Jirga represent all the social, cultural, ideological and geographic differences encountered in the USSR.

Aleksandr Zhurakovskiy, 21, was a metal worker in a small Ukrainian town. Drafted in 1981, he took his training in Soviet Latvia and, following the compulsory stop in Fergana, he was sent to Afghanistan. "Our batalion left for active duty in Allen, a village of the Bagram province. I carried an AGS17 automatic grenade launcher (the Avtomaticheski Granatomiot Stankovi which weights 33.6 kilograms) on my back all through the night. I could no longer stand up and I did not feel like crawling in the mud, so, I went into an empty Afghan house and fell asleep. Meanwhile, the Mujahidin attacked. Our officers gave the order not to retreat until I had been found, safe and sound, dead or injured. When I was found, I understood that it was the end of me, the court martial would never forgive me. My first impulse was to run north, toward home. When we set out once again toward the base, I escaped, but the Mujahidin captured me."

Zhurakovskiy speaks fast. He gives the impression of wanting to say as much as possible before he can be interrupted by Kiselev. His speech follows no logical pattern: "Chinese and Iranian mercenaries fighting against the Afghan people were often mentioned in the Soviet Union. In their place, we found peasants who were defending themselves singlehandedly against us."

Kiselev and Zhurakovskiy are being held in a damp cave. They are very seldom allowed to go outside for fresh air. A strong odor of mutton grease prevades the room where they were taken for our meeting; the two prisoners' feet are covered with thick layers of filth. Kiselev said: "Last summer was the last time we bathed." When I asked Zafaruddin Khan, the chief of the Allah Jirga camp, why the prisoners were not allowed to bathe, he replied that each time warm water had been brought to them for bathing, they had refused to do so. This means that they have both refused to study the Koran and pray.

The Mujahidin keep four other Soviet prisoners a few hundred meters from there. Wearing the traditional Afghan costume, they look very clean compared to the filthiness of the other two who were dressed in European cloth. They agreed to study the Islamic religion; they speak a few words of Farsi, pray five times a day as commanded by the Koran and are relatively better treated than their comrades. Zafaruddin Khan told me: "Those who wish to study the Koran and accept our religion are our brothers. We are preparing those four new Muslims for combat in the occupied Islamic republics of the USSR." In the mosque, one of the prisoners approaches me and whispers: "It's a snow job. I am a Christian, you know." The two groups of prisoners are unaware of each other's presence in the same camp. Zafaruddin Khan explained: "If we were to put Kiselev and Zhurakovskiy with the others, they would prevent them from speaking to us and giving us the information we request."

Sergey Mescheryakov and Grisha Suleymanov had escaped from the Bagram military prison in July 1982 and had gone looking for Afghan partisans. They had been locked up in what they described as "a metal box which cooled very rapidly at night," for having sold gasoline to Bagram peasants. A few days before their escape, they had both been banned from the Komsomol, the Soviet Communist Youth Organization, in front of all their comrades in arms. Grisha Suleymanov whose black-as-coal hair and eyes and tanned face reveals his Caucasian origin, told me: "The war is going to go on for a long time in Afghanistan and even if my 2-year tour of compulsory duty was coming to an end, I could feel that I was not going to be allowed to go home. To be put in prison for something so many people were doing in the army, and above all, so many

officers was too unjust." He added: "I did not want to remain in Afghanistan, but neither did I want to live in the USSR."

Sergey Mescheryakov, who dubs himself a Cossack from the Don, explains: "We did not desert because of our fears, but because of our convictions."

To steal and sell on the black market goods belonging to the state is an activity practiced by many Soviet citizens who supplement their monthly salary in this fashion. Suleymanov and Mescheryakov have known this practice since early childhood. Mescheryakov was born to a working family in Voronezh in 1962. After 10 years in a lycée, he got a job in the local high precision power tools plant. With his co-workers, he sold gold, silver and platinum on the black market. Drafted when he was 19, he was sent to Fergana where he worked on a collective farm. He told me: "Many regiments are being used to do farm work. A few friends and I were selling cattle on the black market and we would get drunk with the money we earned." Caught "red-handed" by the authorities, he was transferred to Afghanistan.

Gadimurad (Grisha) Suleymanov, 21, from Durbent, a village in the Soviet Daghestan, was working on a farm as a time-clerk. He made an agreement with the peasants whereby he would give them more hours in the vineyards than they had really put in and, in return, they would give him part of their additional wages. "It was lucrative for everyone concerned." He then adds in a sarcastic tone: "There are no laws in Daghestan." Drafted in 1981, he became a sergeant in a parachutists' unit in Soviet Lithuania. Suleymanov was sent to Afghanistan for having disobeyed military regulations--he had been AWOL for 3 days.

Both Gayrat Khasanov and Akram come from Soviet Uzbekistan. They both are from Muslim peasants' families. Their battalion was driven to the airport one day in July 1982 at 11 a.m. and they were ordered aboard a TU124. Khasanov recounts: "It is only after takeoff that the officers told us we were leaving to defend the Afghan revolution. After landing, we were ordered to form ranks on the landing grounds and we were told the news by soldiers from Tajikistan who were the only ones to understand Farsi. 'We are in Kabul, buddies!'."

At first, they were both lucky enough to remain in Kabul. Akram, whose last name I never was able to determine, said: "We were told to be careful and not walk alone in the streets. We saw no combat, however, during the first months we were there. We were being made to build houses of dried mud for the officers." Khasanov continues: "The soldiers spoke very little to each other in the barracks. We only trusted our friends and countrymen."

In October 1982, Akram and Khasanov left for their first military raid on Shakar Darah, a village located 40 kilometers from Kabul. Their convoy numbering 200 Soviet soldiers was attacked by Mujahidin and they found themselves scattered along the roads. After 2 hours of battle, Akram and Khasanov, cut off from the main motorized unit, fell into partisans' hands. Khasanov explains: "We knew nothing would happen to us. Our grandfathers taught us that a Muslim never kills another Muslim. Akram nodded in approval. "They had also told us that the Afghans were fighting for Islam against communism. The Russian radio, however, was telling us the opposite, that the Afghans were fighting for communism."

Zhuraskovskiy asks: "Why should we not have trusted Soviet television and newspapers? I was ready to fight with all my soul against imperialist mercenaries."

And now? Zhuraskovskiy replies: "When a man is deceived, he loses heart. Now that they are judging the motherland in cold light, the Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan do not want to fight. If they could, they would all shoot Babrak Karmal." Mescheryakov adds: "I was dumbfounded by what our army was doing in Afghanistan. We were exterminating a people. We searched peasants' houses looking for weapons; we were killing innocent civilians. We retaliated by executing women, children and old men when a few of our soldiers would get killed." Kiselev speaks up: "If I had not been thrown into this absurd war, I would have continued to go to work every morning never asking too many questions. I am now asking them."

They all blame the officers for the atrocities committed by the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. According to them, the officers of Russian nationality are happy to be in Afghanistan. Foremost, because they earn money: Their pay is doubled during service abroad. They receive a monthly pay of 4.8 roubles while in the USSR and 4.8 checks while in Afghanistan (the check is an international promissory note worth 3 roubles, which can be spent outside the USSR). An officer with a monthly pay of 250 roubles therefore gets 250 checks while in Afghanistan, exceeding by four or five times a civilian salary which would already be high in the USSR. In addition, they are often decorated for their courage and high military deeds, which further increases their pay. One year of service in Afghanistan is counted as 2 years (normally, an officer must serve for 25 years). Mescheryakov says: "In addition, the officers grow rich through looting. Upon entering a village they would order us to take all the money and jewelry we could find. We would obey and they would send all the loot to the Soviet Union." Suleymanov recounts that the soldiers were also trying to steal little things like watches and lighters as souvenirs. Zhurakovskiy adds: "It was dangerous for privates to steal from Afghan houses. Each soldier had to submit to a careful search by special army units after each raid. Those on whom something was found chanced a court martial, while the officers did not run this type of risk." All new recruits were profoundly affected by the violence and scorn to which they were subjected by the Red Army officers. Akram speaks up: "We heard every day about soldiers being beaten by officers. The least excuse was good, from an error in the execution of an order to dust inside the tent. The officers never gave us more than 5 minutes to eat. It amused them to see us come out running, leaving half of our food in our plates on the tables. They always made fun of us."

It seems that the main concern of the Soviet private is to find something decent to eat. They are given barley gruel and canned fish three times a day. Suleymanov recounts: "We were supposed to get condensed milk and canned stew from time to time, but the officers would keep them for themselves." Hunger forced them to sell gasoline, army boots, grenades, bullets and even rifles in the Afghan bazaars. Many would try to buy hashish. Vodka was too expensive for them in Kabul. Khasanov says: "The officers got drunk every night, but they never invited the soldiers."

Zhurakovskiy comments: "With modern weapons and the will to fight, we could have conquered Afghanistan in one week." Kiselev adds: "What do we have? The new AKS74 machine gun. Made for airborne troops, it is very light and manageable. We also have the rapid GRAD rocket launchers installed on each side of helicopters; they can destroy a whole village. The rest of our equipment however is old junk."

Zhurakovskiy interrupts him: "Imagine a Soviet convoy going through a mountain road, a caravan of armored vehicles protected by heavy T55 tanks. It is child's play for the Mujahidin--they discharge their rocket launchers on our soldiers who drop like flies. How many of us die? We were not supposed to know."

According to the prisoners, the Soviet military authorities regularly organized attacks on isolated Afghan valleys to locate the resistance's arm depots and seek out the young people who refuse to do their military service in the regular Afghan army. The Soviet general staff receives information on active resistance areas from well paid spies whom they recruit among the peasants. Soviet companies, under guidance of a battalion of Afghan draftees, almost always commanded by Soviet officers, station themselves at day break on the mountains overlooking the area under surveillance while Afghans enter the villages and search the houses. The Afghan soldiers disappear as soon as the first Mujahidin shot is fired and the Soviet troops must enter the fray. Mescheryakov tells me: "The helicopters never arrived before 9 o'clock. We saw neither mercenaries nor imperialists in those villages. We used to hide behind rocks and fire in the air to dirty our rifles. After the battle, the officers used to check our rifles to see whether they had been fired. Those with clean Kalashnikovs were punished."

The six prisoners say of the Mujahidin with whom they are now living that "They have no culture. They only talk about God. No television, no broads, what a wasted life."

What will become of them? Khasanov, Suleymanov and Mescheryakov would like to live in the West. Akram, Kiselev and Zhurakovskiy would like to return to the USSR. The International Red Cross Committee obtained an agreement in April 1982 from the USSR, the Mujahidin, Pakistan and Switzerland enabling the Soviet war prisoners who signed a written statement expressing their desire to return to the USSR to be transferred to Geneva. David Delapraz who heads the Red Cross Committee in Peshawar explained to me: "According to the Geneva Convention, the repatriation of prisoners must take place at the end of the war. No one knows, however, when this war in Afghanistan will end. Everyone has therefore accepted to imprison the Soviet prisoners in Geneva for 2 years before returning them to the USSR."

The Mujahidin accepted to surrender their prisoners to the Red Cross Committee believing they could exchange them for some of their men held in communist prisons. Three Soviet prisoners arrived in Geneva in May 1982, followed by two more in August, two in November and one in January. No Mujahidin, however, were released. Gulbiddin Hekmatyar, head of the Hezb-e Eslami, decided: "We shall now keep Soviet prisoners in Afghanistan until the Russians change their attitude. It is difficult for us to do so, for as soon as the Soviets learn the prisoners' location, they bomb the village with their helicopters. We suggested the creation in Afghanistan of a neutral territory which would not be bombed and where both parties would keep and exchange prisoners. This suggestion was not picked up by the Soviets."

Akhmed Gailini, leader of the Islamic Front, told me: "We asked our Mujahidin in 1981 not to execute the Soviet soldiers they took prisoners, promising them that, in return, their brothers would be released from communist prisons. We now fear that the Mujahidin will resume the executions once again."

Each of the six war prisoners of Allah Jirga spoke about suicide. They all told me having seen Soviet soldiers drink poison, run of their own free will in mine-filled terrain or shoot their brain out due to their own officers' brutality.

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL AIRPORT REPORTEDLY ATTACKED BY GUERRILLAS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 15 Jul 83 p 2

[Text] Islamabad, Pakistan (AP)--Afghan guerrillas attacked Kabul airport on Saturday, their second strike on the Soviet-controlled facility this month, Western diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified, did not have details on the latest assault on the airport, which also serves as a military airbase for the 105,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

But another source reported that guerrilla rockets killed several Soviet soldiers during the earlier attack, on July 1, and that two helicopters and one jet fighter were damaged.

The diplomatic sources said the July 1 attack damaged an Ariana Airlines DC-10, but the Afghan airliner was able to make its regular flight to Prague, Czechoslovakia. The strike shattered windows in the airport terminal building, the sources said.

The guerrillas are fighting to topple the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Travelers reaching Kabul told of a guerrilla ambush Friday on a group of Afghan government and Soviet soldiers allegedly looting houses in the village of Kariz-I-mir in the Paghman area north of Kabul. Many soldiers were reported killed, said the diplomatic sources, who were unable to verify the reports.

The diplomatic sources said helicopters, occasionally circling Kabul from midnight until dawn, were observed throughout the past week.

The security patrols coincided with a power blackout caused by guerrilla sabotage of several pylons between Kabul and a hydroelectric generating station at Mahipur, a frequent target of insurgents.

Other sources, cited by the diplomats, reported heavy fighting on Kabul's western outskirts during the first week of July. They reported three guerrilla rocket attacks on a Soviet-built grain silo.

CSO: 4600/779

AFGHANISTAN

REBELS ALLEGEDLY ATTACK WEDDING PARTY, KILL 40

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 14 Jul 83 p 4

[Text] New Delhi, July 13 (UPI)—Afghan rebels attacked an 80-member wedding party south of Kabul, killing 40 people and taking the rest hostage in a "vendetta" for leaving the resistance and joining the Soviet-backed regime, a Western diplomat said Tuesday.

Although details of the attack were not known, "everyone agrees the attack was carried out as a vendetta by (the resistance group Islamic Society of Afghanistan) who felt betrayed by them joining the regime," the diplomat said.

According to one source, members of the wedding party killed in the July 5 attack in the village of Uhare Waiki had recently belonged to another resistance group known as the Islamic Party led by Gulbajdin Hekmatyar.

Both Hekmatyar's group and insurgents belonging to the Islamic Society led by Prof. Buchanuddin Rabandi are based in Peshawar, Pakistan, and are loosely aligned through the umbrella Islamic Alliance.

Members of the alliance have frequently been accused of in-fighting which diplomats see as a major stumbling block towards possible recognition of a united Afghan front at the negotiating table.

One of those killed was reported to be a singer who performed on regime television, although the victim was not identified. Television performers have often been targets of guerrilla assassination because of their high visibility, a diplomat said.

In other developments, resistance fighting in Kabul during the past week "increased dramatically and rivals the intensity of fighting which took place in the second week of June—then described as the heaviest rebel activity in the capital in two years, the diplomat said.

On July 3, Moslem rebels rocketed a Soviet military post in Karte Seh, a residential neighborhood in the southwest area of the city, killing seven Soviet soldiers, reports said.

Residents of Kabul were "shaken out of bed" on July 8 at 4 a.m. by bomb explosions at a local party headquarter on the northern edge of the city. There were no reports of casualties.

ERSHAD RAMADAN MESSAGE TO NATION REPORTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad on Sunday called for sacrifice, self-restraint, patience discipline and justice to achieve the national objectives, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of Ramzan, the CMLA said let us pray to the Almighty Allah so that we can dedicate all our efforts to the path of welfare, peace and progress of the nation.

He said in doing so the nation should make a vow to strengthen the independence and sovereignty by establishing the universal democratic rights of the country's innocent and neglected masses.

Gen. Ershad said the month of Ramzan is the period of self-purification through observance of austerity in one hand and to receive unlimited blessings from Allah on the other. He conveyed good wishes to his countrymen and brothers and sisters of the Muslim world on this sacred occasion and prayed for their peace and prosperity.

He said "Ramzanul Mubarak" is sacred and significant to the Muslims because the Holy Quran was revealed in this month. The believers get extreme self-satisfaction by earning the means for the temporal world and the world after bypassing the examination of self-restraint in the month of Ramzan.

The CMLA said the significance and success of "Slam" lay in keeping oneself free from wrongs injustice and greed. The prayers of Ramzan is not a mere formality but it is inseparable part of one's whole life. The sense of morality and discipline which are demonstrated by all during the month of Ramzan and the way they are imbued with the conscience of self-purification, if that can be continued during the rest of the year then undoubtedly peace and progress will come back on the earth, he added.

Gen. Ershad said our steps in individual, social and national life will be guided by the path ordained by Allah. Islam is a religion based on practical aspects of life, he said adding: Whatever success is achieved by a Muslim country or society in the fields of science, knowledge, culture and economy

cannot be described as the best from the angle of Islam unless justice is established there. This is the inner sense of Islam.

He expressed the confidence that the people-oriented programmes undertaken by the present Government would be helpful in establishing justice. He called for cooperation from all in accomplishing this objective.

CSO: 4600/1329

TEXT OF ERSHAD SPEECH AT 9 JUN BANQUET IN BELGRADE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10, 11 Jun 83

[10 Jun 83 pp 1, 12]

[Text] BELGRADE, June 9--The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen H. M. Ershad today called for launching global negotiation urgently with a programme for immediate measures and an international conference on money and finance for development reports BSS.

'We have no doubt that this is the path which must be followed to restore the world to sustained growth" General Ershad said at a banquet given in his honour by President of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, Mrs. Milka Planinc, at the Palace of Federation here.

The CMLA who is now on an official and friendly visit to Yugoslavia said that Bangladesh consistently adhered to the principles of sovereign equality of states, territorial integrity and the non-use of force and other principles of the U.N. Charter. Pursuant of these principles he said Bangladesh has been able to establish friendly relations with all countries of the world irrespective of their social system and political ideology.

General Ershad referred to a network of mutually supportive relations of goodwill and cooperation which binds Bangladesh with her neighbours in immediate environs, and said that his country had made conscious and persistent efforts to build a forum for regional cooperation in South Asia. Such forum should be a reality in the near future, he added.

On the sixth session of the UNCTAD now underway in Belgrade, the CMLA deeply appreciated the tremendous efforts made by the host authorities in support of the important conference. The outcome of the UNCTAD session, he said, will remain a subject matter of prime interest to the developing countries.

General Ershad said: 'We come here with the expectation that the constructive proposals embodied in the declarations and message of the seventh Non-aligned Summit would be the input on which the developed countries jointly in partnership with those of the developing world, would work and look for solutions to the major economic problems.

The CMLA pointed out that the international situation continued to be gravely laden with ominous forebodings of threats to peace and security. The situation in West Asia is of an alarming magnitude, he said pointing to the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands through repeated aggressions.

On the continued war between Iran and Iraq, General Ershad appealed to the two Non-aligned member countries once again to stop the fratricidal war he also reiterated Bangladesh's resolve to assist in whatever way we can to bring this conflict to an end.

The CMLA described the situations in Afghanistan and Kampuchea as 'glaring examples' of the violation of the principles of non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states. He reiterated the demand for total and unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops from these two Non-aligned countries and called for political solution of both the problems.

The following is the text of the speech by the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad at the banquet hosted in his honour by the President of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia Mrs. Milka Planinc at the Palace of Federation in Belgrade on Thursday night.

Your Excellency Madam Milka Planinc,

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

It is indeed a matter of great happiness for me and the members of my delegation to be in your great country which is known for its natural beauty and the human qualities of its talented and friendly people. At the very outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your kind invitation which has made my current visit possible and acknowledge with gratitude the warmth of reception, the lavish hospitality and the many courtesies extended to us. I bring with me the abundant expressions of love and goodwill; greetings and best wishes of the people of Bangladesh for the friendly and Non-aligned people of Yugoslavia. I sincerely reciprocate the kind sentiments which Your Excellency have just expressed about Bangladesh and its people.

Your Excellency.

It is a matter of particular satisfaction to us that the relations between Bangladesh and Yugoslavia, which grew naturally and spontaneously out of our shared experiences have not only been traditionally warm and friendly but also profusely laden with the promise of continuous development and consolidation. The fact that Bangladesh and Yugoslavia today are hand-in hand as partners in progress with similar perceptions of many issues of regional and global importance is largely due to the conscious efforts made by both the sides to that end. We recall with delight that the process had begun with our Liberation struggle when your great leader late President Josip Broz Tito and the people of Yugoslavia stood shoulder to shoulder with us. His historic visit to Bangladesh in early 1974 gave us an welcome opportunity to demonstrate the great love and esteem with which we regard him and the whole range of friendly feelings the people of Bangladesh nurture for the people of Yugoslavia. The

frequency of high level visits exchanged between us during the past decade and the informality and frankness which characterised our consultations and exchanges everywhere have not only reinforced mutual trust and confidence but also deepened the belief that the process must go on for mutual benefit and larger interest of the Non-aligned world.

[11 Jun 83 p 3]

[Text] Following is the remaining part of the text of Ershad's speech at the banquet hosted in his honour by the President of Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia Mrs. Milka Planinc at the Palace of Federation in Belgrade on Thursday night

Your Excellency.

We acknowledge with gratitude your deep and abiding interest in the welfare and progress of the people of Bangladesh. It is my pleasure to be able to inform you that since assuming office, my government which has inherited very difficult conditions has been engaged in a determined effort to regenerate the economy. Economic emancipation of the common man has been the priority target and the results of the pragmatic steps taken by my Government in various fields are already manifest. Our primary aim is to achieve self-reliance. Our efforts have therefore been directed towards developing agriculture and attaining self-sufficiency in food production; introduce effective population control measures; increase industrial production by giving legitimate incentives to the private sector, encourage foreign investment, explore and develop energy resources and introduce a modern and meaningful educational system. The worn-out administrative system which we inherited is being re-structured to meet the requirements of modern times and through a process of decentralisation and democratisation, its administration has now been taken to the 68,000 villages in rural Bangladesh where ninety per cent of our people live ensuring the common man's association with and participation in the administration and development activities. We have also decentralised the High Court of Judicature in order to make the administration and dispensation of justice speedy and effective. As we gather the results of our efforts our confidence deepens that the path we have chosen in the interest of the common man in Bangladesh is in the right direction.

Your Excellency.

We in Bangladesh follow with deep interest the developments in Yugoslavia and her activities all around the world. We have watched with great admiration and delight that the people of Yugoslavia guided by their wise leadership, have been able to maintain their confident strides towards harmony peace and progress following the trail blazed by your great leader Tito. They have bravely accepted the challenges dictated by a steadily deteriorating economic situation effecting very large areas of the Non-aligned world. Externally, her conscious and continuous efforts to build a climate of equilibrium in a strategic region of the world & a net work of worldwide relations of respect and cooperation on the basis of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the Non-aligned Movement are fetching satisfactory results. Yugoslavia today

enjoys unique prestige in the international community and remains a confident standard-bearer of Tito's great legacy.

Your Excellency,

My visit to your beautiful country coincides with the Sixth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which is currently well underway in Belgrade. We are deeply appreciative of the tremendous efforts made by the host authorities in support of this important Conference the outcome of which will remain a subject-matter of prime interest to the developing countries. We come here with the expectation that the constructive proposals embodied in the declarations and message of the Seventh Non-aligned Summit would be the input or, which the developed countries jointly in partnership with those of the developing world, would work and look for solutions to the major economic problems. It is needless to overstress that global negotiations need to be launched urgently with a programme for immediate measures and as international conference on money and finance for development. We have no doubt that this is the path which must be followed to restore the world to sustained growth.

Your Excellency.

Bangladesh consistently adheres to the principles of sovereign equality of States; territorial integrity and the non use of force, non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states; right of every nation to self-determination and peaceful settlement of disputes. Pursuant to these principles Bangladesh has been able to establish friendly relations with all countries of the world irrespective of their social system and political ideology. In our immediate environs where a network of mutually supportive relations of goodwill and cooperation binds Bangladesh with her neighbours we have made conscious and persistent efforts to build a Forum for Regional Cooperation in South Asia which should be a reality in the near future.

The international situation however, continues to be gravely laden with ominous forebodings of threats to peace and security. The situation in West Asia is of an alarming magnitude. Israel continues to occupy Arab lands through repeated aggressions. We once again reiterate our firm belief that a lasting peace in West Asia can be achieved only on the basis of Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including the Holy City of Jerusalem, realisation of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including their right to have an independent state in their own home land under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative and the restoration of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to Islamic and Arab sovereignty. We also support the struggle of the Lebanese people to achieve full sovereignty.

The continued war between the two Non-aligned and brotherly countries, Iraq and Iran is causing us increasing anguish and while we appeal to them once again to stop this fratricidal war we also reiterate our resolve to continue to assist in whatever way we can to bring this conflict to an end. We earnestly hope that the latest initiatives taken by the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries will produce fruitful results leading to peace.

Reaffirming our solidarity with the people of Asia, Africa and Latin America in their just struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid we reiterate our full support to the brave people of Namibia in their just struggle for national liberation from the repressive and racist regime of South Africa.

This situation in Afghanistan and Kampuchea today presents a glaring example of the violation of the principles of non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States. We reiterate our demand for total and unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops from these two Non-aligned countries. We call for a political solution which must guarantee the peoples of Afghanistan and Kampuchea the freedom to decide their own destiny without any external interference and intervention and commend the current process of negotiations aimed at achieving peace and stability.

Your Excellency.

The similarity of views shared by Bangladesh and Yugoslavia on many important questions make it fruitful for us to have frequent consultations particularly within the Non-aligned Movement. We recall with much pleasure that we made our common endeavours to ensure the success of the Seventh Non-aligned Summit Conference in New Delhi. While we pledge to persist in making our contributions towards translating into reality the inputs contained in the Declarations and Message of that Conference, we also reiterate our resolve to do whatever we cannot only to strengthen the cohesion and unity of this world force but also to ensure that it continues to remain on the mainstream of its original and authentic principles.

With these words and in this spirit may I now request Your Excellencies and Distinguished guests to join me in a toast:

--to the good health, happiness and long life of His Excellency Mr. Mika Spiljak, President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

--to the good health happiness and long life of Her Excellency Madam Milka Planinc, President of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

--to the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Yugoslavia; and

--to the abiding friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Yugoslavia.

CSO: 4600/1328

ERSHAD MEETS PRESS ON RETURN FROM YUGOSLAVIA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Jun 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad who returned home after a four-day official visit to Yugoslavia on Sunday morning expressed optimism about the success of the on-going sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at Belgrade.

Talking to newsmen at Zia international airport the CMLA who addressed the plenary session of the UNCTAD in the Yugoslav capital hoped that the UNCTAD-VI would be able to chart a positive direction in finding a solution to the pressing world economic problems. He said that as the leader of the G-77 Bangladesh had reiterated its stand for early launching of the global negotiations on economic problems. He said that in the UNCTAD conference Bangladesh had stressed the need for concessional aid flows from the international financial institutions and donor countries for the LDCS.

Referring to his official and goodwill visit to Yugoslavia the CMLA hoped that his visit would further consolidate the bond of Dhaka-Belgrade friendship. He considered his visit to Yugoslavia was very significant for three reasons--it provided him the opportunity to address UNCTAD conference meet the world leaders attending the conference and discuss bilateral and global issues with the Yugoslav leaders. He termed his talks with his hosts as "fruitful and satisfactory".

The CMLA said that the Yugoslav leaders had shown interest in extending cooperation in the energy sector and exchange of cultural delegations. The Yugoslav leaders he said, were keen to expand trade and commerce and launch joint ventures in industrial sector in Bangladesh.

BSS adds: Referring to South Asian Forum for cooperation, General Ershad said the Yugoslav leaders had particularly appreciated Bangladesh's initiative on the proposed regional forum.

On international matters, he said the issues like Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war declaring the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean as zone of peace figured in the discussions.

The CMLA said on most international issues, both Bangladesh and Yugoslavia held similarity of views.

The CMLA said the UNCTAD-6 conference was still continuing and it was too early to predict its outcome. But he pointed out that it was encouraging to note that the conference was continuing deliberation on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA).

He said all the participating countries had agreed that some decision should be taken immediately on this in the interest of the least developed countries including Bangladesh.

General Ershad said the UNCTAD conference was expected to extend its support to the SNPA. He hoped that the programme of action would be implemented within a specified time limit.

The CMLA said it was expected that a common fund for commodities would be set up by the end of the year under the initiative of the UNCTAD. If this proposal is implemented the developing countries would be able to receive funds to expand market for their primary products and carry out research activities. He said 96 countries had signed agreements for setting up of the Common Fund for commodity agreement. But only 50 countries had so far ratified the agreement while 46 others including the United States, are yet to ratify it.

The CMLA expressed optimism that Bangladesh would get economic assistance from the Common Fund in accordance with the international jute agreement for development of jute.

Referring to his hour long meeting with the world Bank President in Belgrade General Ershad said that the President Mr. W. Clausen had praised the proper utilisation of the World Bank loans by Bangladesh. He said they had also discussed the possibility of providing more aid to Bangladesh through the International Development Agency (IDA). The question of constructing a bridge on the river Buriganga also came up for discussions with the World Bank President who he noted had agreed to come to Dhaka on a visit.

The CMLA said that he had visited the Naval Academy in Split where he was happy to see that the Bangladesh naval cadets on training were doing well.

He said that he had extended invitations to Yugoslav President and President of the Federal Executive Council to pay visits to Bangladesh. They have accepted the invitation he added.

Replying to a question, the CMLA said that his meeting with the Indian Prime Minister was brief and "of courtesy" in nature and no bilateral matters were discussed with her.

Responding to another question General Ershad said that a Chinese expert team was undertaking the feasibility study on the Buriganga bridge. He recalled that during his last visit to China both sides agreed to build some monuments of friendship in each other's country. He said the Chinese Government had decided to build the Buriganga bridge as a mark of friendship between peoples of the two countries. He said different sites for the proposed bridge are being under study and the construction by the Chinese would be undertaken as soon as they receive the "ok from us". He said that he had not decided as yet what type of monument Bangladesh would build in China.

Replying to a question whether he had discussed possibility of using good offices of Yugoslav leaders in resolving the problem of Ganges waters with India the CMLA said that he preferred not to internationalise the issue at this stage. He said we have 18 months time-frame of which nine months had already passed. If there is no solution of the problem within this period, we have to take some steps he said adding that the Ganges was a very old issue and we can only express our optimism for the solution. He said Bangladesh had already extended its hands of cooperation and it now depends on them (India).

About Tin Bigha corridor, General Ershad said that already seven to eight months had passed since the agreement on the issue was signed. But he regretted that the corridor had not been handed over to Bangladesh as yet. He said that there may be some indication on this during the coming visit of the Indian Foreign Secretary to Bangladesh.

Political Dialogue

On the question of dialogue with political leaders, the CMLA said the dialogue would be resumed in a day or two. He pointed out that he had been away from the country. He also told a questioner that his monthly address to the nation did not take place during last two months mainly because there was nothing much to say. But he indicated that before the end of Ramzan there might be some necessity to address the nation.

Replying to a question on the reaction on his recent remarks on the university teachers, General Ershad said healthy atmosphere in the campus might be restored. We cannot allow things to continue what is now happening in the universities--nowhere in the world such things are allowed to take place.

Varsity Affairs

The CMLA said he had only stated some facts and nothing else. We would take up some actions on the basis of these facts in future. He pointed out that the Chancellor under the present circumstances had no right to intervene in the affairs of the university. He indicated that time had come to think of the University Ordinance providing the university such autonomy. He also said he would like to address all the political leaders of the country that the university matter should be settled once for all. 'We cannot allow the present situation to continue.'

On the question of restoration of the 1972 Constitution as demanded by some political parties, the CMLA said he had not told anything to the effect that it was not possible to restore the constitution. But he pointed out that the people had already given their verdict on this issue thrice in the past. Three elections were held since 1977 on all occasions the people had voted in favour of Presidential system of Government.

He, however, said that even then if the people now want a parliamentary system of Government, he does not have anything to say. He told a questioner that he did not feel that there was need for holding any referendum on this question right now. But if the question is raised again in the interest of the country and the nation, it would be done.

He said he does not have any fascination for any particular system. "What I want is the welfare of the country so that no political turmoil takes place and we can run the country properly."

Replying to a question on the proposed thana level election, the CMLA indicated that it would be held some time early next year. He said the new voter's list was now under finalisation.

The CMLA told a questioner that the Ganges barrage proposal was still there as a project. But he pointed out that before completion of the Teesta barrage it was not possible to take up the Ganges barrage. The Teesta barrage is more important for us at this stage and we have to complete the barrage first.

The CMLA referred to his talks with the Chinese Vice-Premier and said that they had agreed to expand trade between Bangladesh and China. The Chinese leader had highly praised Bangladesh's stand on Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

On his meeting with Premier Khieu Samphan of Democratic Republic of Kampuchea General Ershad said the Kampuchean leader had appreciated Bangladesh's role.

The CMLA said his talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had covered the question of Lebanon and Middle East. He said President Mubarak had extended all invitation to him to visit Egypt.

CSO: 4600/1329

PRESS REPORTS FOREIGN MINISTER'S EUROPEAN VISIT

Activities in Romania

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 16 Jun 83 p 3

[Text]

Foreign Minister Mr A.R.S. Dohc called on the President of Romania Mr Nicolai Ceausescu in Bukharest on Monday last. The President said that he was happy to note that Bangladesh and Romania have shared perceptions in International affairs including West Asia, Afghanistan and Kampuchea, says a PID handout.

On bilateral matters President Ceausescu assured the Foreign Minister that notwithstanding the difficult International Economic situation Romania stands by her commitments to Bangladesh on economic cooperation. The President suggested that the two countries should meet as soon as possible to identify areas of cooperation and undertake in depth studies. He said Romania was ready to help Bangladesh in the energy sector.

In response to the communication of invitation by the Foreign Minister to President Ceausescu, the President said that he was very happy to accept the

invitation and that the visit can be processed through the diplomatic channels as early as possible. He emphasised that his visit should be able to concretise economic proposals being discussed by the two countries at the moment.

President Ceausescu urged that Bangladesh as the Chairman of the group of 77 should during her tenure try to produce concrete results in the setting up of a programme of actions aimed at development and recovery in the third world. Also present at the meeting were the Foreign Minister of Romania Mr Stefan Andrei and the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Romania Mr Muslehuddin Ahmed. The meeting lasted for one and a half hours.

Earlier in the morning the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh held the first round of talk with his Romanian counterpart Mr Stefan Andrei. The two Foreign Ministers scheduled to continue their talks till June 14.

Activities in Ankara

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] ANKARA, June 16--Turkish President Kenan Evren received Foreign Minister Mr. A. R. Shams-ud Doha Wednesday and held discussions for an hour reports BSS.

President Evren extended an invitation to CMLA, Lt. General H. M. Ershad to visit Turkey at a convenient date.

On bilateral issues the President himself suggested ways and means of expanding bilateral economic relationship between the two countries including joint ventures in various areas. The subject of expanding cooperation in jute and jute goods and shipping were discussed at length.

The Foreign Minister presented to the President of Turkey a portrait of the President by a young Bangladeshi painter Saiful Islam which was highly appreciated.

Also present at the meeting were Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Ilte Turkmen Bangladesh Ambassador in Turkey Mr Mahbubul Huq and the Turkish Ambassador in Dhaka Mr. Matin Sirman.

The Foreign Ministers assisted by the two Ambassadors & other high officials held their second and last round of official talks at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs lasting for over two hours. They discussed domestic bilateral regional and international issues in depth.

It was also decided at this meeting to send a team of the Turkish private sector to Bangladesh to examine possibilities of expanding trade and economic cooperation including joint ventures.

Foreign Minister of Turkey announced that his Government would be happy to sign an air agreement with Bangladesh as early as it is convenient to do so. The meeting was marked by utmost cordiality.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister also called on the Turkish Minister for National Defence Mr. U. Haluk Bayulken in the evening. The two ministers discussed at length matters of mutual interest.

Earlier in the morning the Foreign Minister laid wreaths at the mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk.

The Turkish Foreign Minister hosted an official banquet in honour of the visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Mr. A. R. Shams-ud Doha arrived here on Tuesday for a three day official visit and was given a very warm reception.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Ilter Turkmen received the Foreign Minister at the airport.

Earlier before his departure from Bucharest Mr. Doha held two more rounds of talks with the Romanian Foreign Minister Mr. Stefan Andrei in Bucharest during which it was decided that the next session of Bangladesh Romanian joint commission would be held in Bucharest in autumn this year. Following the session a Romanian delegation will visit Bangladesh. The Foreign Minister of Romania confirmed that he would visit Bangladesh later this year.

Bangladesh-Turkey Communique Text

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 18 Jun 83 p 3

[Text]

Following is the text of the Bangladesh-Turkey joint press release issued on the conclusion of the official visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Turkey from June 14 to 16, 1983.

"At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Ilter Turkmen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Mr Aminur Rahman Shams-ud Doha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid an official visit to Turkey from June 14 to June 16, 1983.

His Excellency Mr A.R. Shams-ud Doha and the accompanying delegation were accorded a very warm welcome reflecting the brotherly relations existing between Bangladesh and Turkey.

During the visit the Bangladesh Foreign Minister was received by his Excellency Kenan Evren, President of the Republic of Turkey to whom he handed over a message from Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad, Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh.

The Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Turkey assisted by their respective delegations, held discussions on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international matters in an atmosphere marked by brotherly understanding and fraternal cordiality. They noted with satisfaction the steady development of their bilateral relations based on historic ties and common cultural and moral heritages.

The two Foreign Ministers expressed concern at the deterioration of international situation and reaffirmed the necessity to undertake all affirmed the necessity to undertake all efforts towards promoting world peace and security for upholding the fundamental principles of international relations based on respect for sovereign equality, territorial integrity non-interference in internal affairs and the peaceful settlement of all disputes.

The two sides noted with great concern the deteriorating situation in the Middle East arising out of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policies against the Arab people. They reaffirmed that a just and durable solution of the Middle East problem can only be achieved through the restoration of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and recognition of their right to establish an independent state in their own homeland, under the leadership of PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the complete withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories.

The two sides strongly condemned Israel's continued occupation of Lebanon. They stressed the necessity to support all efforts to ensure peace and stability in Lebanon aimed at safeguarding its security and territorial integrity under the full authority of its legitimate Government.

The two sides expressed their determination to deploy all efforts for increased solidarity

and cooperation among the Islamic countries and for strengthening the organisation of the Islamic conference.

The two Foreign Ministers expressed their grave concern at the continuing armed conflict between Iraq and Iran and hoped that a peaceful solution to this conflict will soon be reached. In this context the two sides reaffirmed their support for all efforts aiming at reaching a peaceful settlement to this conflict.

The two sides expressed their concern over the current situation in Afghanistan and stressed the need for complete withdrawal of foreign troops and the creation of conditions to enable the people of the country to determine their destiny freely without outside interference or intervention.

Reviewing the current international economic situation the two sides stressed the need for active participation of developed countries in establishing a new international economic order for the benefit of both developing and developed countries. They called for an early implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for least developed countries.

In reviewing their bilateral economic relations the two sides noted with satisfaction the steady growth in economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Turkey. They recognized the scope for a wider cooperation and agreed that greater impetus should be given to their economic relations

through the promotion of increased and diversified flow of trade, setting up of joint ventures, services, investment and technical and scientific exchanges to the mutual benefit of their economies.

The two Foreign Ministers vigorously condemned acts of terrorism regardless of their origin and agreed to the necessity for effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism.

His Excellency Mr A. R. Shama-ud Doha briefed His Excellency Mr. Ilter Turkmen on the overall situation in the South Asian region and on the initiatives of Bangladesh to further improve her relations with the neighbouring countries. In this connection, he explained the progress achieved in regards to the seven-nation South Asian Forum. The Foreign Minister of Turkey expressed his appreciation of the constructive efforts of Bangladesh in this direction.

His Excellency Mr. A. R. Shama-ud Doha expressed his profound gratitude for the warm and affectionate welcome extended to him and his delegation during the visit by His Excellency Mr. Ilter Turkmen the Government and the brotherly people of Turkey. The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh extended a cordial invitation to His Excellency Mr Ilter Turkmen to pay an official visit to Bangladesh at his convenience. The invitation was accepted with pleasure."

ENERGY MINISTER'S VISIT TO OTTAWA REPORTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Jun 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] The DCMLA and Energy Minister Air Vice-Marshal Sultan Mahmud and Canadian Minister for International Trade Gerald Reagan discussed in Ottawa last week the possibilities of expansion of bilateral cooperation in trade a delayed message said in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

The DCMLA and the Canadian Minister also discussed matters of mutual interests. Both of them shared the common desire to increase bilateral relations both within the framework of the Commonwealth and outside.

Seapking at a luncheon given in honour of the DCMLA, the host Canadian Minister Reagan spoke of the existing fraternal ties between the two countries and expressed the hope that it could expand to cover areas beyond that of trade and aid.

The Energy Minister also held talks with senior officials of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to review its assistance to Bangladesh with special reference to the energy sector for increased help in the field.

Before arriving in the Canadian capital he spent two days in Toronto where he had discussions with the officials of the Atomic Energy Commission of Canada and visited nuclear power reactor at Pickering.

The DCMLA, who was in Canada as a part of his three-nation tour, also met the members of the Bangladesh community living in the town. He explained to them the new programmes and policies taken up by the new government for the welfare of the people.

CSO: 4600/1329

BANGLADESH CONDEMNS EXECUTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh has strongly condemned South African regime for the execution of three freedom fighters of South Africa in violation of international norms and practices reports BSS

In a statement issued in Dhaka on Sunday the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. General H. M. Ershad said: "I have learnt with profound shock that the South African regime has carried out the death sentence on the three freedom fighters of South Africa in violation of international norms and practices and particularly in utter disregard to the Security Council Resolution 533 of June 7 1983.

"The execution of the valiant freedom fighters demonstrates once again that the racist regime is determined to perpetuate its policy of apartheid and racial discrimination in defiance of the opinion of the international community.

"We in Bangladesh unequivocally condemn this dastardly act. I have no doubt that the supreme sacrifice made by these patriots will serve as a beacon light to the freedom loving people of Southern Africa for further intensifying their struggle against the racist regime with a view to establishing their right to live in freedom peace and human dignity.'

CSO: 4600/1329

ERSHAD DEPUTY URGES EFFORT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Jun 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] The DCMLA and Minister for Communications, Rear Admiral M. A. Khan yesterday called for an organised total national efforts of the government and the people to root out corruption from all levels of the society, reports BSS.

A united people and government drive to eradicate corruption from our national life will succeed and help establish a new and prosperous Bangladesh in our life, he told the installation ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of the Lions Club of 'Dhaka Central' at a local hotel.

He called upon the press to expose without fear or favour the blacksheep in politics business and administration to purge public life of corruption.

Admiral Khan said, we must place human values at the top and the interests of human community at the forefront of all prosperity.

Admiral Khan said that the moral decadence of our society has been brought into sharp focus in recent times. The corruption is raising its head and may affect adversely the nation building efforts of the Government. It is true that there is corruption both in Government and non-government quarters. It has become a way of life because of its multi-dimensional political, administrative, economical and social origins.

The DCMLA said that the Government had identified this menace and have promulgated many ordinances and rules to control the situation.

He said that it is suggested by some quarters that even death sentence should be awarded to corrupt individuals. We definitely should award death sentence but we have to attack the malady itself and adopt preventive action at national level against the disease, he pointed out. What is needed most is not an executive action but an organised total national effort of the Govt and people to drive away corruption from all levels of society through comprehensive package plan within an institutional framework which the government has provided.

CSO: 4600/1327

STEPS TAKEN AGAINST INSURGENCY IN CHITTAGONG HILLS

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 18 Jun 83 p 1

[Article by Mahmud Rashid]

[Text] The government has recently taken various steps to curb insurgency in the districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts and Bandarban.

An elaborate program has been taken up to recruit village defence police (VDP) from among the new settlers and provide them with 303 rifles to resist the thrusts of the so-called Shanti Bahini of the tribal insurgents.

So long security forces were posted in the settlement zones to counter the attacks by the armed tribals on the settlers. But in a recent meeting of the council committee on the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a proposal to substitute shotguns by 303 rifles for the VDPs was approved.

Detail requirements of arms were worked out by the 24 infantry division and the list was sent to the army headquarters.

Implementation of another program of the Ministry of Home Affairs for issuance of automatic arms to police posted in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Bandarban districts is also underway.

The settlement zones are being handed over to normal administrative responsibility at thana and other levels as decided in the meeting of the council committee on the CHT held on October 3, 1982. The process will be completed in phases. Implementation of two phases is afoot now, it is learnt.

The government is actively considering sanction of 14 percent of the casualty reserve of police personnel in the two tribal districts to further consolidate the strength of the law-enforcing agencies.

Meanwhile, a jungle warfare training school has been set up at Dolahazara. Six weeks training course on jungle warfare at Dolahazara Police Training School was recently completed. A batch of 115 police personnel participated in the training course initially. The trainees were of the rank of Subedar and Havilder.

Further arrangement is afoot for setting up a jungle warfare training wing for training of BDR personnel at the existing school at Baitul Izzat. The concerned authorities have already approved a syllabus for the training. The program was initiated in last March.

Alongside the preparation of the government to strengthen its position in the tension-ridden districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Bandarban, the so-called Shanti Bahini has also stepped up its operations to weaken the position of the government.

Consequent upon the harassment tactic pursued by the insurgents and increasing hostilities between the insurgent tribals and law enforcing bodies, the miseries of the peace-loving tribals have increased as they are getting it from both sides. According to a report recently received in the metropolis curfew has been clamped for days together in the areas of Ranirhat, Dhamairhat, Razahat and Dobhashibazar. The imposition of the curfew followed intensified attacks of the so-called Shanti Bahini. There are allegations that some shops were looted during curfew hours.

CSO: 4600/1333

BANGLADESH SIGNS LOAN ACCORD WITH INDIA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jun 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh will receive a credit of Indian Rupees 20 crore (20 million U.S. dollar) from India for purchase of capital goods machinery and equipment under an agreement signed between the two countries in Dhaka on Wednesday reports BSS.

The agreement was signed at the end of the two-day meeting of the standing committee of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission. The Co-Chairmen of the standing committee, the visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. K. S. Bajpai, and Secretary of the External Resources Division Mr. Mofizur Rahman signed the agreement on behalf of their countries.

The two sides also, in principle agreed for availability of another credit of Rupees 40 crore (40 million U.S. dollar) by the Export Import Bank of India to the financial institutions for Bangladesh like Shilpa Bank and Shilpa Rin Sangstha. Formal agreement to this effect are expected to be signed soon.

Another agreement on cooperation between agricultural research institutions of the two countries an outcome of the standing committee meetings was also initialled today by Agriculture Secretary Mr. Anisuzzaman and the Indian High Commissioner Mr. I. P. Khosla on behalf of their respective countries.

The government-to-government credit of rupees 20 crore will be repayable in 15 years period having an interest rate of five per cent. The Eximp Bank credit will be repayable in 15 years with an interest rate of 9.25 per cent.

Under the agricultural cooperation agreement there would be collaboration between the agricultural research institutes like Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Later, talking to newsmen Mr. Bajpai said that the agreements were the outcome of the successful completion of the negotiations at the standing committee meeting of the JEC

Asked if trade imbalance between the two countries were discussed at the standing committee meeting, Mr. Bajpai said there was extensive discussion on

trade. General review of the trade between the two countries are made from time to time he said, adding efforts were under way for reduction of trade imbalance.

He told a questioner that there was a trade deficit of Rupees 34 crore against Bangladesh during the current financial year. He said that Bangladesh items like newsprint will be lifted soon and bitumen will be going to India within next two months and some quantity of urea fertilizer will also be lifted although India he added, was surplus in fertiliser.

Mr. Bajpai said that during the meetings some areas were also identified for undertaking joint industrial projects in the field of sponge iron, cement factories and sugar mills. In this connection, he said, there would be both way visit of experts and feasibility study would also be undertaken.

Replying to a question whether transit facilities were discussed at the standing committee meeting Mr. Bajpai said that railway and other transport authorities of both the countries were in touch with each other.

Asked if he had discussed the snags in Indo-Bangladesh relationship during his call with the Chief Martial Law Administrator yesterday the Indian Foreign Secretary said we reviewed the broad scope of our relationship.

He told another questioner that process was under way for transfer of Tin Bigha to Bangladesh. Acquisition of lands is going on and the legal problems were being sorted out, he added.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Air Vice Marshal (Retd) A.K. Khondoker high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and members of Indian delegation and Indian High Commission officials were present at the signing ceremony which took place at the state guest house

CSO: 4600/1331

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY FORMED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] A National Committee on Science and Technology (NCST) has been constituted with the Chief Martial Law Administrator as the Chairman, says a PID handout.

The DCMLA and the Chief of Air Staff will be the Vice Chairman of the Committee which will have 21 members including Minister for Industry and Commerce, Minister for Works, Minister for Health and Population Control Minister for Agriculture Minister for Education and Minister for Local Government and Rural Development and seven eminent scientists to be nominated for a term of two years. The Secretary Science and Technology Division will act as the Member-Secretary of the Committee.

The Government has nominated the following scientists as members of the NCST for a term of two years:

(1) Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim, President, Bangladesh Diabetic Association; (2) Dr. A K M Aminul Haque, Vice-Chancellor Bangladesh Agricultural University; (3) Dr. Mohammad Abdur Raquib, Vice-Chancellor Rajshahi University (4) Dr. Abdul Matin Patwari Vice-Chancellor Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology; (5) Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission; (6) Chairman Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and (7) Executive Vice-Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.

Following are the terms of reference of the Committee:-

Recommend national policies on Science and Technology, (b) Recommend priorities to specific research programmes, evaluate the quality and effectiveness of research programmes undertaken by various agencies and the extent to which results are put to actual use, (c) Suggest measures for co-ordination of scientific research and development activities (d) Recommend approval to research plan and programme and (e) Such other matters as may be considered relevant by the Government.

Besides, there will be an Executive Committee to over see the implementation of its directives and decisions with the DCMLA, Chief of Air Staff as the Chairman.

EXPERT DISCUSSES PROBLEMS IN RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jun 83 p 8

[Article by Partha S. Ghosh]

[Text]

THE present phase of Indo-U.S. relations can be seen as one of reconciliation, with the promise of a more active and mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries, says Dr Partha S. Ghosh, a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. He feels that both countries have been showing a sense of accommodation at the bilateral level and business circles of both are showing a keen interest in developing a mutually advantageous relationship. There is also a growing sense of cooperation in science and technology. These positive trends notwithstanding, Dr Ghosh points to a few nagging issues which might stand in the way of a "process of growing understanding". One of them is the Tarapur nuclear power plant, another the military build-up in the Indian Ocean. Some misunderstanding could also result from India's role as leader of the non-aligned movement, and changing compulsions of domestic politics could prejudice Indo-American friendship—though this does not seem likely at present.

EVER since Mrs Indira Gandhi's visit to the United States in July 1982, the misunderstanding that has plagued Indo-U.S. relations for years has appeared to be on the wane. Although the U.S. Vice-President's

characterization of the visit as heralding a "special relationship" between the two democracies has proved to be an overstatement, yet indications are there that a better climate is in the making.

The present phase can be viewed as one of reconciliation, with the promise of a more active and mutually advantageous cooperation. At the regional level, if the process of normalization in Indo-Pakistani and Indo-Chinese relations moves on satisfactorily, the potential areas of tension and conflict between India and the United States would be substantially reduced. The likelihood of a thaw in Sino-Soviet tension might further encourage better Indo-U.S. relations.

When the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, visits India in July this year, there would not probably be only bilateral issues to discuss but the altogether new dynamics that is likely to be introduced in the entire international system by a Sino-Soviet rapprochement. Already the system of periodic political dialogue between New Delhi and Washington, which was discontinued during the Carter Administration, has been revived.

PRAGMATIC ROLE

The international political milieu apart, there are reasons to believe that both the countries have been showing a sense of accommodation at the bilateral level. The present policy of the Indian Government to pursue a "pragmatic" approach in the economic field by liberalizing trade and industrial policies has created a pro-India constituency

in American business circles. Knowing how the American political system works, one can realize that these business interests would play their role in influencing Washington to reconsider its premises that determine its attitude towards India.

Recently, the Business America magazine of the USA has published a special feature highlighting new opportunities available in India for American trade and investment. It says: "As we approach the bottom line on any discussion of U.S. trade and investment with India, we must not overlook the biggest incentive—the Indian businessman himself. He is able, savvy, technologically sound and, above all, knows how to manoeuvre through the bureaucratic thicket in India. In short, he knows how to put it all together and make it work".

Ever since the enunciation of India's policy in April 1982 to give the private sector more independence to raise productivity, Indian entrepreneurs have showing keen interest to re-vamp their already existing links with their American counterparts. The 12-member delegation of Indian business executives, which toured the USA in May 1982 sought to woo medium-level American entrepreneurs. It was not a mean achievement for the delegation that five or six joint ventures were on the cards as an instant response.

That the business interests of both countries are showing a keen interest in developing a mutually advantageous relationship is also evident in the meetings and seminars being held in various American cities. A series of such get-togethers has been planned by the U.S. Commerce Department. In the first seminar in this series, held in New York in January this year, several leading American business executives took note of an encouraging change in the total environment for foreign investment and business development in India.

Recently, a high-powered U.S. business mission visited India to explore possibilities of larger American private investment in India. The mission, sponsored by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation of the USA, is the first official U.S. Government mission to visit India in 14 years. Mr Craig A. Nalen, the president and chief executive of the OPEC led the mission, announced that 14 U.S. companies had finalized their plans to proceed with investments in India. Out of these 14,

five were high-technology projects, the costs of which varied between \$1 million and \$10 million. It may be noted that in the case of one project, the American company decided to shift its project to India though it was originally scheduled to be set up in Singapore.

The Indo-U.S. Joint Business Council has been meeting in the United States to explore further possibilities of cooperation. A high-powered delegation of Indian industrialists will hold discussion with American capitalists to seek American investment in India. Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the U.S. Commerce Secretary, is reported to have said that the United States is receptive to the idea of increased U.S. investment in India. It has been pointed out to him that India would welcome high technology, and that foreigners may own up to 40 per cent of Indian companies in general, and up to 75 per cent of high-tech.

NAGGING ISSUES

Besides political and economic relations, there is also a growing sense of cooperation in the field of science and technology. Dr George Keyworth, President Reagan's science adviser, has been entrusted with the task of setting up a "blue ribbon panel of scientists" for a high-level exchange of scientists between the two countries. The "blue ribbon panel", which had its meeting in New Delhi in November 1982, has outlined an Indo-U.S. cooperative research programme covering food production, health, biomass and materials research, and earth sciences.

These positive indications notwithstanding, there are a few nagging issues which might militate against the process of a growing understanding. An Indian request for vital spare parts for the Tarapur plant has been pending with Washington for quite some time now. It is alleged that the recent report in the Washington Post, that India was reprocessing spent fuel on a large scale, was the result of some calculated leak by the Reagan Administration to prejudice Congress against India's nuclear policy and thus block Congressional approval for the Indian request.

The Indo-U.S. discord over the nuclear issue is likely to continue. In the context of the likelihood of Pakistan going in for a nuclear weapons programme, the demand for making nuclear bombs has been ever

growing in India. If Pakistan and India go nuclear, there might be unfettered nuclear proliferation in the Third World, tearing the NPT regime into pieces—a situation which the United States would surely abhor.

Another area of discord could be the military build-up in the Indian Ocean. India has been protesting against the super-power build-ups, with a typical slant against the United States. According to Indian perceptions, the militarization of the Indian Ocean against the backdrop of a politically volatile and strategically important West Asian and Persian Gulf region poses long-term security threats to India, which has a vital stake in the region both for commerce and energy resources. How the interests of a global power can be reconciled with those of a regional power is a million dollar question.

MISUNDERSTANDING

Some kind of misunderstanding might also spring from the fact that India will be leading the non-aligned movement for the next three years. Part of the problem is inherent in the situation. As India would be required to play a leading and effective role at the global level on issues such as North-South dialogue, nuclear disarmament and so on, it would be obliged in the process increasingly to expose itself against avowed American positions on these issues.

There is, however, one redeeming feature in this problem. America seems to have

come of age in dealing with the Third World. Washington has increasingly realized that the Third World, or the non-aligned, anti-U.S. rhetoric seldom prevents it from entering into viable political, economic and military deals with many of the Third World countries. It is possible the United States would not overreact to this rhetoric any more.

Much of the future of Indo-U.S. relations would, however, depend on the Indian domestic scene. In the given pro-private sector thrust of India's policy there is possibility of an expanding relationship between the two countries. Compulsions of domestic politics have already made Mrs. Gandhi distant from the U.S.-baiting she had usually indulged in previously, when she used to ride on socialistic slogans for political gains. Her growing alienation from the leftist forces at present would go well with closer relations with the United States. And since she is the sole architect of India's foreign policy and since, in her scheme of things, politics gets primacy over all other considerations, it is likely that, so long she is in power, her policy of improving relations with the United States would continue.

If, however, changing political compulsions oblige her to align with the left forces, or put a brake to her efforts towards normalizing relations with Pakistan, Indo-American relations would again be in rough weather. From the present reckoning, such a possibility does not seem to be very likely.

ANALYST REPORTS GANDHI MEETING WITH YASIR 'ARAFAT

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Jun 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, June 7--The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mr. Yasser Arafat, paid a brief visit to Delhi today for urgent talks with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on the worsening situation in West Asia, where there was a grave danger of Israel attacking Syria in the name of compelling its forces to withdraw from Lebanon.

He urged her to activate the seven-member non-aligned group that was set up at the Delhi summit at his instance--consisting of Bangladesh, Zambia, Senegal, Yugoslavia, Cuba, Algeria and PLO with India as chairman--to mobilise world opinion, both within and outside the United Nations, for a just, comprehensive and durable settlement of the Palestinian problem.

There was, however, no clue whatsoever from the Indian or Palestinian side why Mr. Arafat has chosen to make an air-dash to Delhi one day before Mrs. Gandhi was due to leave on her five-nation tour of Europe. All that was said was that he was expected to pay this visit for the last one month, ever since the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, was sent to Tunis to discuss follow-up measures in terms of the summit resolutions on Palestine, but he could not come earlier because of other pressing preoccupations.

Strict Security

The PLO leader arrived by a Saudi Aircraft from Jeddah, amid the tightest possible security precautions. Mrs. Gandhi, who received him at the airport, was informed of the exact time of his arrival only after the aircraft had taken off from Karachi.

Similarly, he left this evening after a two-hour meeting with Mrs. Gandhi, followed by a working lunch at which the talks were continued on various aspects of the West Asian situation, with a different flight plan as part of the very stringent security arrangements laid on for his travels abroad. The few that were permitted to go to the airport to see him off had to wait for a long time in searing heat since the exact time of his departure was kept secret.

It was not the same self-assured Arafat that arrived for talks with Mrs. Gandhi in her capacity as chairperson of the non-aligned movement, since he looked tired and worried, worn down by the sufferings of his people. The dissensions within the PLO camp had apparently shaken him, although he described them as grossly exaggerated, but it was quite evident that he was facing a serious challenge to his leadership whatever the degree of this dissidence.

But amid his travails, the PLO leader has not been neglecting his other tasks for keeping up a semblance of Arab unity over the Palestinian issue and also continuing his contacts with both Iran and Iraq in an effort to end this tragic conflict.

The PLO leader has been making no secret of his bitter disappointment with the Soviet Union for its policy of calculated aloofness even when Israel was destroying Lebanon and killing innocent men, women and children. As he said during the Delhi summit, Israel would not have dared to indulge in such blatant aggression except for the total support of the United States.

Faced with mounting difficulties on almost every front, Mr. Arafat has lately been displaying considerable moderation which has brought him into conflict with the hardliners in the PLO itself, apart from provoking fanatics like Col. Quadhafi of Libya who has been accusing him of betraying the Palestinian cause. His attempts to portray the military defeat suffered by the PLO at the hands of Israel in Lebanon as a political victory for the Palestinian cause has not made much impact on Arab opinion.

It is not without significance that before making this air-dash to Delhi the PLO leader flew to Algiers for a meeting with the President, Mr. Benjadid Chadli since Algeria is one of the seven-member group set up by the Delhi summit to work for a Palestinian settlement. He came with a personal message from the Algerian President to Mrs. Gandhi.

"Conspiracy"

PTI & UNI report:

Speaking to newsmen before his departure from Delhi, Mr. Arafat accused Libya and some Arab countries of conspiring to split the PLO. He, however, did not want to name the Arab countries involved in the conspiracy.

He said, "The conspiracy hatched by Quadhafi and others has failed. The PLO will fight to the last to secure a safe homeland for the Palestinians."

Donning a military uniform and his traditional headgear, Mr. Arafat described as "highly exaggerated" reports that there was dissension in the ranks of the PLO and said the Soviet Union was "fully supporting" the organisation and helping it seek "full justice for the Palestinians."

Mr. Arafat was given a ceremonial send-off befitting a head of Government

He inspected an inter-services guard of honour and was seen off at the airport by Mrs. Gandhi, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, other Cabinet Ministers

Asked the purpose of his visit, Mr. Arafat said: "I have come to New Delhi to meet Mrs. Gandhi as the chairperson of the non-aligned movement and to seek her cooperation and to coordinate things to ensure that the situation in West Asia stabilises and the Palestinians are ensured of their rightful place."

Asked if Col. Qadhafi was trying to create trouble in the ranks of PLO, Mr. Arafat said, "It is so. I am proud that our fighters are fully determined to preserve our unity."

Asked by a foreign correspondent whether his position had become very weak, making him vulnerable, the PLO chief retorted "I invite you to come and see for yourself."

CSO: 4600/1309

WEST RESPONSIBLE FOR CHANGE IN ARMS PURCHASE POLICY

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jun 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, June 13--The Western diplomatic missions in Delhi, which have been taking unusual interest in the impending visit of the Defence Minister to the Soviet Union, are waiting to see how far India would go in reverting to the earlier position of relying almost entirely on Moscow for the supply of its basic defence requirements.

The Defence Minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, is due to go to Moscow next week, accompanied by the Defence Secretary, Mr. P. K. Kaul, and a number of senior military and civil officers, for talks with the Soviet authorities on the acquisition of new weapons systems.

Reciprocal gesture: Though the trip itself is being described as primarily a reciprocal gesture by the Defence Minister to return the visit to India last year by his Soviet counterpart, Marshal Dimitri Ustinov, it has acquired special importance because of the Indian interest in availing itself of the Soviet offer of advanced MiG versions that could adequately cope with the threat of F-16s obtained by Pakistan from the United States.

The decision to extend the MiG production line in India for manufacturing the MiG-27s has already been announced in Parliament. But what is now under discussion is to carry forward this policy for building the latest versions, including the MiG-31 which is considered to be more than a match to the F-16 in its offensive and defensive roles at the present level of technological advances in military aviation.

The Indian move has naturally caused some surprise in Western circles since it would imply an abandonment of the earlier intention to go in for the manufacture of the French Mirage-2000 after the initial purchase of 40 aircraft. The decision to switch over to Mirage-2000 followed the relinquishment of the option to build Jaguars under licence, although India agreed to buy more of these planes in the bargain.

The reported move to go in for advanced weaponry for the ground forces, like a progress switch from T-72 to T-82 as the main battle tank for the next decade,

supplemented by other categories of supporting combat vehicles is being interpreted in the West as proof enough of India's increasing dependence on Moscow for its defence equipment.

After the failure of the negotiations with the U.S. for advanced 155-mm artillery, it is now taken for granted that India will have to acquire these heavy guns also from the Soviet Union, besides the latest rocket systems for increasing the fire power of the land forces.

Main punch: The main punch of the Indian Navy is provided by the Soviet-supplied missile boats. The decision to refurbish the aircraft-carrier Vikrant with Sea Harriers and also supplement the submarine arm with German collaboration cannot alter the basic dependence of the Navy on continued Soviet assistance.

But the Western powers themselves are responsible for frustrating India's plans for diversification of arms purchases. The terms and conditions laid down by the U.S. are unacceptable to India because, apart from having to pay heavily in foreign exchange for this equipment, there is no guarantee that the U.S. would not withhold spares and ammunition at critical moments for political reasons.

The others, like Britain, France and West Germany, are more accommodating but the financial burden of paying for the equipment supplied by them is so very heavy that a poor country like India would be totally ruined if it were to rely entirely on them.

Judicious mix: It was in this context that the Government tried to adopt a defence purchase policy providing for a judicious mix of Western and Soviet equipment within certain limits. But the Western powers, notably the U.S. has compelled India in one way or the other to quietly give up this policy and rely more and more on the Soviet Union.

The Western critics of India's military weapon purchase relationship with Moscow do not take this factor into consideration. They also tend to conveniently gloss over the fact that the Soviet arms are supplied on rupee payment at a very nominal 2.5 per cent interest, repayable in 17 years after a seven-year grace period, and it is a very major concession that cannot be matched by anything that is offered by the West.

There will still be many items, like the missile systems for aircraft, ground and airborne radar and other highly sophisticated electronic equipment which India will have to buy from the West irrespective of the high cost. The Soviet Union cannot offer anything comparable, since it is well behind the West in these specialised spheres of research and development for defence.

CSO: 4600/1319

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH EGYPT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jun 83 p 7

[Text]

India and Egypt signed a joint communique on cooperation in agriculture on Wednesday under which Egypt will supply India date palms of different varieties, oranges, grapes and olives, reports UNI.

India will supply to Egypt varieties of disease-resistant sugarcane, high yielding sunflower and mustard, groundnut and medical and aromatic plants.

The signing of the communique, which envisages wide ranging cooperation in agricultural research, followed the fourth session of the Indo-Egypt joint advisory committee which concluded in New Delhi.

The communique was signed by Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Dr O P Gautam and Deputy Director of the Agricultural Research Centre of Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture Dr Aly Abdel Aziz.

Both sides considered it useful to identify the possibilities of expanding cooperation in export and import in the agricultural sector on a mutually beneficial basis.

A tentative list of agricultural

commodities and products offering scope for export and import between the two countries might be drawn up.

After extensive discussions on cooperation in agricultural research, both sides identified the various fields for mutual exchange of visits of officials and experts, and of information, documentation and material.

Indian scientists would visit Egypt to study production technology of some of the major crops in that country, like cotton, rice, pulses, soyabean and groundnut. They would also study management problems of salt-affected and desert soils and dryland farming.

The fifth session of the Joint Advisory Committee would be held in Cairo next year.

It was agreed that the Joint Advisory Committee could meet biennially to review and formulate programmes for two years at a time.

The areas of cooperation identified come broadly under the category of crop sciences, animal sciences, soil sciences, and agricultural education and development.

CSO: 4600/1311

INDIA

SOVIET UNION MAIN BUYER OF INDIAN FRUIT PRODUCTS IN '82

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jun 83 p 9

[Text] THE Soviet Union has been the main buyer of Indian processed fruit products, accounting for 60% of India's total exports in 1982 according to official sources. The Russians like Indian mangoes and pineapples and these were exported as jam, jelly, fruit juice syrups and also in canned slices. The Soviet Union imported about 6,000 of tinned products last year.

In 1982-83, India exported 67,000 tons of processed fruit and vegetable products worth Rs 59 crores. The sources said that this showed a 72% increase over the preceding year's export of 39,000 tons valued at Rs 28 crores. Other countries which had shown interest in Indian food products were the U.K., the USA, Canada, West Germany and countries in the South-east Asia and West Asia. The sources said that the exports from India largely met the demand of a sizable number of Indian residents in these countries.

The sources said that in the east and north-east regions of India, there were 233 manufacturers of food products. One hundred and ninety one of these were located in West Bengal. The estimated production capacity of the factories in West Bengal was about 80% of the total capacity in this region. Sikkim's capacity was about 8% and Assam about 6% the sources added.

The eastern and the north-eastern region produced about 11,000 tons of fruit and vegetable products in 1982. Of these about 7,000 tons were exported, leaving a balance of 4,000 tons for domestic consumption. Of the 4,000 tons, the food product manufacturers lifted about 50%, leaving a bare 2,000 tons for sale to consumers. The sources said that the common man in India could not afford to buy fruit and vegetable products, the prices being beyond his reach.

The sources stressed on the need for a stricter quality control of export products. The Soviet Union had complained of black specks in food products, rusts in tins used as packages and of the products not being of the required standard. Some consignments had either been rejected or accepted at a much reduced prices in the past. East Germany, Yugoslavia and Hungary, which used to import Indian food products had stopped placing orders with Indian manufacturers, the sources added.

MACHINERY FOR MIG-27 PRODUCTION ARRIVES IN INDIA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Jun 83 p 5

[Text] A large part of the tooling, sophisticated machinery and equipment for the assembly and eventual indigenous production of the MiG-27 fighter aircraft have arrived in India, reports UNI.

The machinery is now being installed at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) units by Indian experts.

According to present indications a total of about 200 MiG-27 aircraft would be assembled and produced at HAL. The first Indian-assembled MiG-27 is expected to roll out in April 1984.

The Soviet Union has agreed to permit India to indigenously manufacture the uprated re-heat Tumansky R-29-300 turbofan engine for the MiG-27 at HAL's Koraput division.

The assembly of the MiG-27 will be done at Nasik division of the HAL.

The MiG-27 is a dedicated air-to-ground derivative of the basic MiG-23 aircraft which are already operational with the Indian Air Force.

The forward fuselage of the MiG-27 (NATO code-named Flogger-D) to be built in India will be essentially similar to MiG-23, apart for some augmentation of the side armour, but a modified undervarriage for enhanced rough field operation would necessitate bulging the fuselage adjacent to the main wheel bays.

The Indian MiG-27s will be optimised for the low-level role with some sacrifice in speed and high altitude capability. A modified turbofan will be installed having a larger compressor, shorter and simplified two-position exhaust nozzle and larger--area fixed intakes (as opposed to the variable intakes of the MiG-23).

The MiG-27 is characterised by longer nose embodying two optical flats and small fillets above the intake box.

This tactical strike and close support aircraft will have mach 1.6 performance flying at 1,700 kms per hour with a service ceiling of Rs 52,500 feet.

The combat radius of the MiG-27 in a hi-lo-hi mission profile on internal fuel with 4,410 pounds of external ordnance will be 500 kms and with centre-line fuel tank the radius will be 580 kms.

The MiG-27 will have one 23-mm six-barrel rotary cannon and up to 7,716 pounds of external ordnance on five stores stations. Typical external load comprises centreline drop tank and four 500-09 bombs plus air-to-air AA2-2 atoll infrared-homing missiles for self-defence. It will also carry a mix of air-to-surface AS-7 Kerry, AS-9, AS-11, AS-12 missiles.

CSO: 4600/1304

EFFORTS TO HEAL KASHMIR CAMPAIGN WOUNDS REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Jun 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 10.

Efforts are on, even before the dust has settled, to heal the wounds of the bitterly fought election campaign in Jammu and Kashmir in which the National Conference and the Congress(I) were cast in adversary roles and ended up by virtually polarising the outcome on communal lines.

Some intermediaries are already at work to bring about an early meeting between the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and the Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, after her return from Europe.

A suggestion has been made by some Congress(I) leaders that, following the example she set of congratulating Mr. N. T. Rama Rao and Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde after their assumption of office in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Mrs. Gandhi should send a suitable message to Dr. Abdullah felicitating him on his party's success in these elections. But whether she would do so while she is abroad or wait until her return to Delhi is still an open question.

Contact at personal level: Meanwhile, some contact is being established at a personal level between Dr. Abdullah and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in his capacity as general secretary of the Congress(I) to prepare the ground for an early visit by the Chief Minister to Delhi to meet the Prime Minister and assure her of his continued commitment to work for the welfare of the people of both Jammu and Kashmir regions in close concert with the Central Government. As one who has legitimised the succession in Kashmir with a mandate of his own, it is felt that he deserves to be supported and encouraged to adhere to the national mainstream, without embarking on the perilous path of seeking a

special status for his State.

The Centre is aware that there are hardliners within the National Conference, who would like to exploit the present feelings of alienation generated by the inflamed passions of a violent election campaign, to press for a return to the pre-1953 status in the name of preserving the earlier identity of the State. The young Chief Minister, who will need time to consolidate his hold on the National Conference, has to be helped to assert his supremacy and curb the activities of such volatile elements bent on giving an anti-Indian slant to the verdict of the predominantly Muslim electorate in the Kashmir Valley in these elections.

The Central leadership will also ensure that as the second largest party in the new legislature, the Congress(I) will behave like a sensible Opposition extending cooperation to the National Conference Government on issues of wider importance. The hot-heads in the Congress(I) will be restrained from getting involved in the domestic politics of the Abdullah family by taking advantage of the cleavage between the Chief Minister and his brother-in-law, Mr. G. M. Shah, who was an active aspirant to the Sheikh's mantle when he was passed over in favour of his son.

Rapport with Begum Abdullah: The Prime Minister would like to establish a closer rapport with Begum Abdullah, so that the mother could play a stabilising role in this family squabble in the larger interests of the State. Though they have been ranged against each other in this unfortunate election campaign, the two had significantly avoided saying anything harsh to hurt each other's feelings despite their political differences.

CSO: 4600/1314

NEW DELHI EEC COMMISSION HEAD TALKS TO PRESS

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Jun 83 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 10.

The high-level Economic Advisory Council appointed by the Prime Minister has suggested to the Government to ensure "operational autonomy" of public enterprises.

"It is absolutely essential to ensure operational autonomy of public enterprises by allowing the managements to develop and implement corporate programmes on their own within the Plan profile, but without the interference from various extraneous sources", the report submitted to the Prime Minister recently said.

While public accountability had to be assured, it was better done by observing "certain basic guidelines than through detailed interventions", the report said.

The Council, headed by Prof Sukhmoy Chakravarty, said that public enterprises must be allowed to mobilise more resources for development rather than serve indirectly as agents providing subsidies to the private economy.

Chief executives must be appointed by a knowledgeable selection committee among a set of professional managers in order that high standards of achievement might be ensured.

Specified tenure: "They should be given a specified tenure, which is long enough to ensure effective corporate management and planning", the Council felt. "A clear example of violations of this principle that have been taking place is with regard to the appointment of the chairman of the Steel Authority of India, which has greatly affected its ability to carry out its mandate effectively", the panel said.

The Council proposed to study the questions of technology generation and import of technology and the precise criteria the country sets to follow when taking recourse to "joint collaboration".

Financial constraints: On financial constraints, the report said that while the balance of payments position in 1983-84 looked manageable, "we are almost certain to run into very serious difficulties from mid-1980s onwards on account of rising debt service obligations unless we can (a) reduce our dependence on imported sources on energy by curtailing the current rate of growth of energy consumption, (b) improve capacity utilisation significantly in steel, cement and fertilizers, (c) increase substantially the domestic output of rice and oilseeds, and (d) have greater success with export promotion than we have had so far".

Export promotion: The question of export promotion had received serious attention from the Government from time-to-time, but the results had not been particularly encouraging.

"The present world recession is partly responsible for it, but what we need is, cost reduction in key sectors, better quality control and infrastructural support and an aggressive marketing strategy.

"There is a limit to what we can do to stimulate exports through fiscal devices, such as subsidies or monetary policies, such as offering low interest on export credit. What monetary policy can most effectively do for exports is to help maintain a relatively non-inflationary macro environment", the report said.

Political interference in E.B.s: Referring to the low plant load factor in power stations, the report suggested the formation of special task forces immediately to look into the scope for improvements, particularly where the performance was unsatisfactory.

"There has been too much political interference not only in the appointments, transfers, etc., in the electricity Boards, but in the fixation of tariff rates, and this needs attention at the level of the Chief Ministers as early as possible. — PTI.

GOVERNMENT DEFINES MISSION OF SAKARIA COMMISSION

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, June 7--The Sarkaria Commission, announced by the Prime Minister some 10 weeks ago, will examine and review Centre-State relations in all spheres and recommend appropriate changes.

The long-awaited terms of reference of the commission, notified today, said the review would cover 'the working of the existing arrangements between the Union and the States in regard to powers, functions and responsibilities in all spheres'. A general statement, notable for brevity, outlined the Commission's tasks. The earlier idea of listing Constitutional provisions and specific points was given up because it was felt, that would restrict the scope of work.

The Commission, said the notification 'will keep in view the social and economic developments that have taken place over the years and have due regard to the scheme and framework of the Constitution which the founding fathers have so sedulously designed to protect independence and to ensure the unity and integrity of the country which is of paramount importance for promoting the welfare of the people.'

Two parameters: Officials described the terms as wide-ranging, saying that the reference to 'all spheres' meant that it would be free to go into the entire gamut of Centre-State relations, legislative, administrative and fiscal. There will be two parameters for what otherwise was intended to be a comprehensive exercise--one, the Commission will not suggest any measure that could weaken the country's unity and two, it will keep in mind the social and economic developments.

In mentioning the second point, the Centre wanted to stress its adherence to the Directive Principle of the Constitution requiring the State to 'strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life.'

The Commission, as was explained by the Prime Minister and others, would not be barred from suggesting changes in the Constitution for the amendment process was part of the Constitutional framework. To make it clearer, the

words 'within the present Constitutional framework' figuring in the Prime Minister's first announcement in Parliament were deleted. This was done to guard against wrong inferences, as were drawn by some critics. However, the Constitutional scheme, in so far as it seeks to ensure the country's unity and promote the people's welfare, will not be subject to change. The terms of reference, it was pointed out, were formulated after consulting Mr. Justice Sarkaria.

Free hand: The Commission will devise its own procedures and will be free to entrust investigation of specific issues to persons of its choice. It has been assured of the support of all Government departments at the Centre and in the States.

The following is the text of the official notification:

The Government of India has been considering for sometime past the need for a review of the existing arrangements between the Union and the States. A statement on the subject was made by the Prime Minister in the Houses of Parliament on March 24, 1983. Accordingly, a Commission consisting of Mr. R. S. Sarkaria, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India is hereby set up.

The Commission will examine and review the working of the existing arrangements between the Union and the States in regard to powers, functions and responsibilities in all spheres and recommend such changes or other measures as may be appropriate.

In examining and reviewing the working of the existing arrangements between the Union and the States and making recommendations as to the changes and measures needed, the Commission will keep in view the social and economic developments that have taken place over the years and have due regard to the scheme and framework of the Constitution which the founding fathers have so sedulously designed to protect independence and to ensure the unity and integrity of the country which is of paramount importance for promoting the welfare of the people.

Headquarters in New Delhi: The Commission headquarters will be in New Delhi.

The Commission will devise its own procedures for the discharge of its functions, and the Commission may, if it deems it necessary to do so, have investigation or examination of such matters as it may deem fit to be made in such manner and by such persons as it may consider appropriate. The Ministries and departments of the Government of India shall furnish such information and documents and provide such assistance as may be required by the Commission from time to time. The Government of India trusts that the State Governments and the Union Territory administrations and others concerned will extend their fullest cooperation and assistance to the Commission.

The Commission will submit its report on or before June 30, 1984.

REPORT ON MIDTERM APPRAISAL OF SIXTH 5-YEAR PLAN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jun 83 pp 1, 9

[Article by G. K. Pandey]

[Text] NEW DELHI, June 6--THE mid-term appraisal of the sixth plan shows that higher indigenous crude production coupled with anticipated increases in fertiliser production and commercial crops like oilseeds will go a long way in easing the balance of payments position.

Although the planners have not yet qualified the amount of savings on oil and fertilisers' imports during the terminal year of the sixth plan, experts believe that under these two heads alone a saving of about Rs. 1,000 crores per annum could be made.

The imports of crude oil, petroleum products and fertilisers are well below the estimated figures in the sixth plan. In fact, the fertiliser inventory position has been so comfortable for the past several months that the government had to virtually suspended import of this essential agricultural input.

In respect to oil and petroleum products, a latest official study shows that against a five-year production target of 93.4 million tonnes of crude oil, the total production now anticipated is 103.42 million tonnes, even though there has been a shortfall of almost three million tonnes in the first two years of the plan due to disturbances in Assam.

Petroleum Products

Crude oil imports in the terminal year of the plan (1984-85), estimated at 16.4 million tonnes in the plan document, are now expected to decline to 11.18 million tonnes.

What really seems to have heartened planners is the fact that there has been a discernible decline in the growth rate of consumption of petroleum products. The overall growth rate for demand, estimated in the sixth plan document at nine per cent, has been significantly lower at about six per cent in spite of the fact that in respect of kerosene it has increased currently to about 12 per cent.

As a result of the sizable reduction in anticipated growth rate for demand, import of petroleum products in the terminal year of the plan estimated at 10.8 million tonnes earlier are now expected to decline to 4.3 million tonnes.

Besides, substantial savings in foreign exchange are expected to accrue as a result of depressed conditions in the world market in respect of crude oil and petroleum products.

At the ruling market prices, crude oil and petroleum products bill during the current year is expected around Rs. 4,300 crores as against Rs. 4,928 crores in 1982-83 and Rs. 5,512 crores in 1981-82.

An official study shows that foreign exchange spending on import of crude oil, fertilisers and items like oilseeds could be reduced significantly. Steps in this direction have already been initiated and as a result it would be possible to curtail the import bill during the seventh plan period.

The largest scope for reducing imports, according to the study, exists in fertilisers and petroleum sector. No doubt there has been fertiliser capacity is still much below the desired level. Besides there have been inordinate delays in the commissioning of additional fertiliser capacity. The study points out that such delays could prove rather costly for the country.

In respect of crude oil and petroleum products, it is stated that expenditure for the imports could be reduced in four main ways: increased substitution of hydrocarbons by alternative sources of energy, increase in the domestic production of crude oil and natural gas, reduction in demand for petroleum products and greater efficiency in the use of hydrocarbons.

Only last year, the Union government had approved the proposal of the department of petroleum to increase the production of domestic crude oil which had become feasible by the establishment of additional reserves of hydrocarbons, notably 115.09 million tonnes in the Bombay High oil field and fields in its vicinity. This is under implementation and is expected to result in an additional production of 11.84 million tonnes of crude oil in the sixth plan itself.

Natural Gas

Similar prospects appear to be available in the onshore fields of the ONGC in Gujarat. Though the production scheduled in the sixth plan was 15.5 million tonnes, the maximum possible production is estimated at 17.8 million tonnes and this the department of petroleum is endeavouring to achieve.

Disturbances in the north-eastern region in 1979-1981 led to a "loss" in production of 2.80 million tonnes. Studies have indicated that it will be possible to increase the annual production from the fields of the ONGC and oil in this region from 5.6 million tonnes to 6.84 (and possibly 7.10) million tonnes, but this will take a little time and it is unlikely to materialise in the balance period of the sixth plan.

Substantial quantities of natural gas are available in the north-eastern region and from the offshore fields in the Bombay High group of oil fields. The main difficulty has been the time lag between availability and its optimal use. Most of the consuming units such as gas turbines and fertilisers plants are well behind schedule. Every possible effort has been made to substitute liquid hydrocarbons first and the balance quantity was used for the interim period to substitute coal except in Assam where such a possibility was not available.

The continuing difficulty in finding beneficial outlets for associated gas in Assam are such that there is no alternative but to conserve the gas by reinjection into suitable horizons which are fortunately available in that area. Similar studies are in progress in other areas so that flaring can be avoided altogether and gas conserved till beneficial uses materialise.

A study of the availability and possible users for the next 22 years has been completed and this is reviewed every six months to correct for changes in the availability and progress of optimal use. Certain issues that need to be considered in the desirability of earmarking gas for further production of power in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Assam (the areas in which gas is or can be available). Discussions on this have been held (in the planning commission) and are being pursued further.

CSO: 4600/1305

RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESS NONALIGNED INTERESTS NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Jun 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, June 11--After the Williamsburg summit, there have been some indications that the Western powers are prepared to consider sympathetically the NAM proposals for immediate measures to provide some relief to the third world in critical areas like food, energy, financial flows, trade and raw material prices, while keeping their options open over more fundamental issues like global negotiations.

But, in welcoming this limited response, India is taking steps to impress on the industrialised societies of the West that no piecemeal or stop-gap measures can really start the process of recovery unless the developed countries are ready to reverse the protectionist trends, dismantle trade barriers, provide developmental assistance, end unequal exchange rates and relieve debt burdens.

Integrated approach: It is India's expectation that the heads of Government of EEC meeting in Stuttgart from June 16 to 18 would give serious consideration to the pleas of the non-aligned community for an integrated approach to these problems, while UNCTAD XI is deliberating them compartmentally in their respective sectoral spheres.

In urging the Western powers to rise to the occasion, India is not pressing them to agree to an early international conference on money and finance, or engage in global negotiations without adequate preparation. It is not shutting its eyes to the reality that a lot of preparatory work would be required to convene even another Bretton Woods type conference.

But because it is going to take a long time to prepare for any such conference to discuss structural changes in international economic relations, it is doubly necessary for India to start the preparatory work soon. If a cross-section of world leaders representing the developed and developing nations could meet during the next U.N. General Assembly session, it should be possible to set the tone for further international contacts to carry forward these efforts.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, will have occasion to discuss her ideas on such a phased approach with the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz when he visits India at the end of this month, in the light of the EEC discussions next week on the subject. The non-aligned summit deliberations were not aimed at pressuring the West but generating the necessary political imperatives for a dispassionate consideration of these global economic problems.

As India sees it, the present world economic crisis has been brought about largely, if not wholly, by the attempts of the industrialised nations to curb their double digit inflation with contractionist policies, stepping up interests rates, slowing down growth and allowing unemployment levels to rise. The recessionary trends so created have led to a sharp decline in the export earnings of these countries, reducing their import capacities in turn.

This has gravely affected the exports of developing countries, leading to a precipitous fall in the prices of their primary products, creating adverse balances in their trade, increasing their debt burden and depriving them of development resources. A reverse cycle has to be started to pull the world economy out of this stagnation and provide a breathing spell to both developed and developing countries to devise a more enduring pattern.

Theme of letters: And this is the theme that Mrs. Gandhi is propagating in her correspondence with world statesmen. She hopes that the general response would not be disappointing, even if it is not up to her expectations.

CSO: 4600/1315

INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO BE ESTABLISHED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jun 83 p 7

[Text] NEW DELHI, June 8--The Centre's decision to establish a National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development in Delhi, was announced by the Minister for Industry, Mr N. D. Tiwari, here today, while addressing the 37th meeting of the All India Small Scale Industries Board.

He told the meeting that the proposed institute was going to be an apex body to coordinate the work of all other entrepreneur training and development institutes in the country and devise specific training programmes suitable for various classes of entrepreneurs, specially the poor.

Mr Tiwari stated that the Government decided to concentrate on developing new entrepreneurs, who would be equipped with all the skills to float new ventures.

He said the national institute would be asked to conduct research on entrepreneurship development and advise the Government on policy to be adopted to promote the rapid growth of entrepreneurship in a short time. He, however, hastened to clarify that "the national institute" would not replace the existing institutions or training centres, but serve as an umbrella organization to fill in the critical gaps of training methods, curricula and trained trainers.

Mr Tiwari also announced the Government's yet another important decision to set up 12 branch small industries service institutes in various parts of the country, the objective being to reach the knowledge of improved technology to the far-flung areas as well as to the countryside. These were not going to be the usual institutes that were found elsewhere, he said, declaring that they would have workshops equipped with the appropriate machinery and trained staff to train local people as quickly as possible in modern techniques of manufacturing. This was also aimed at improving the quality of products of small scale units, he said.

The Union Minister for Industry said that besides the scheme of the Development Commissioner for giving incentives to improve quality in production, the existing specialized centres for technology development like testing centre, tool rooms were being expanded and strengthened. The Government also introduced an award scheme at the national level for meritorious small

entrepreneurs under which weightage would be given to units in backward areas and to poorer entrepreneurs, he said.

Mr Tiwari reminded the board that the small-scale industries sector was expected to raise production to the level of Rs 33,000 crores, create additional nine million jobs and produce extra for export to the extent of Rs 2000 crores annually, by the end of the Sixth Plan.

The Minister said that the number of registered units had reached 600,000. The number of unregistered units was also quite large. The value of production in the small-scale sector, he said, accounted for 49% of the total exports of industrial products from India, he said, adding that this was by no means a small achievement. It also augured well that there was a change in the approach of the financial institutions towards the small-scale sector.

Mr. Tiwari felt that the financial institutions and the State Governments should have better coordination to render timely aid to sick units. There was also the need to review their working and evolve measures which might combat this situation.

CSO: 4600/1310

WATCH TOWERS PLANNED FOR BANGLADESH BORDER

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jun 83 p 14

[Text] THE Estimates Committee of Parliament has strongly recommended the construction of watch towers along the India-Bangladesh border to check infiltration from Bangladesh, smuggling and border crime.

Mr Bansilal, chairman of the committee and a former Defence Minister, who visited West Bengal last year, has also recommended in the report that more outposts of the BSF be opened along the "inadequately guarded" West Bengal-Bangladesh border, so that the distance between two BSF outposts is reduced from about 10 km to 6 km. Increasing the manning strength of the outposts has also been suggested to ensure better vigil along the border.

The Centre has already accepted the recommendations of the committee and the first two border watch towers will soon be put up in West Bengal. The 32-ft-tall wooden towers will be constructed at Gopalnagar ghat, on the Murshidabad-Nadia border, and in West Dinajpur. Both places are said to be well-known infiltration points and have a high incidence of crime and smuggling.

Official sources said in Calcutta on Thursday that in future, all the Indian outposts on the Bangladesh border would have watch towers like those on the India-Pakistan border. The sources said that the watch towers would provide the BSF with a better view of the illegal movements across the border. Cultivation of jute and sugar cane right up to the border made it difficult for the border patrols to detect infiltration because of the height of these crops.

The other recommendation of the committee--construction of a border road all along the West Bengal-Bangladesh border--has not been welcomed by the West Bengal Government. The committee's view is that construction of such a road would help the Indian border force to act quickly in dealing with infiltration, crime and smuggling. Existence of such a border road along the Indo-Pakistan border has already proved to be a great help to the Indian security forces there.

The West Bengal Government's opposition to the recommendation stems from the fact that the construction of the road would result in acquisition of land and houses all along the border. The State Government thinks that a large number of people would have to be evicted and this would lead to litigation.

Meanwhile, the BSF, in an anti-infiltration drive since May 15, has arrested and pushed back about 700 Bangladesh nationals who had illegally crossed over to the four south Bengal districts of Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia and the 24-Parganas. About 600 infiltrators were Muslims, others were Hindus. The BSF has already drawn the Union Home Ministry's attention to this new development. For over a year, more Bangladesh Muslims than Hindus have tried to cross into West Bengal. The number of "Bihari Muslims" has been small.

During a meeting of senior BSF and Bangladesh Rifles officials in Khulna on May 30 and 31, the Bangladesh side had for the first time shown its eagerness to help India in dealing with infiltration. The BDR officials had reportedly stated that they would try to plug the loopholes on their side of the border to make it difficult for their nationals to illegally cross to India. Previously, Bangladesh always took the stand that there was no infiltration of its nationals into India.

At the meeting, the Bangladeshi officials wanted to know whether the "foreign nationals" to be detected in Assam would be deported to Bangladesh through West Bengal. The Indian officials replied that there was no such possibility.

CSO: 4600/1312

INDIA

BRIEFS

SOVIET-AIDED REFINERY--India plans to get up a new oil refinery with Soviet aid to meet the increasing demand for oil, according to Union Minister for Petroleum and Energy, P. Shiv Shankar, says PTI. He told APN in an interview that India hoped to be able to process 45.55 million tonnes of crude oil per annum by the end of the sixth Plan and attain a production rate of 29.46 million tonnes per year. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jun 83 p 7]

MORE FOREIGN TIE-UPS--There has been considerable increase in foreign tie-ups during the current year. During the first quarter, January-March 1983, a total of 176 foreign collaborations have been approved by the Government as against 126 during the same period last year. At least 39 of these tie-ups (22 per cent) involve financial participation also. The Federal Republic of Germany accounted for 38 collaborations, followed by UK (37), US (33) Japan and Switzerland (15 each), France (11) and Netherlands (2). Five countries--UK, US, FRG Japan and Switzerland--together accounted for 78.5 percent of the total number of collaborations during the quarter. Assuming that the number of foreign collaborations in the remaining three quarters of the year will be more or less same, the year 1973 may well establish a new record in the number of such tie-ups. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jun 83 p 5]

NEW SIKKIM PARTY--GANGTOK, June 7 --A group of leading politicians of Sikkim has decided to set up a new political party with the avowed objective of providing a clean administration and safeguarding the interests of the ethnic groups, especially in the matter of allocation of seats in the assembly. The decision to form the party, which will be known as the Himalayan Congress, was taken at a meeting held at Rangpo on Sunday. It will be formally launched on June 17. The leaders expressed dissatisfaction with the policies of the ruling Congress (I) as well as the opposition Congress (R) led by Mr. R. C. Panudyal. Prominent among the sponsors of the party are three former ministers, Mr. Dorji Tshering Bhutia, Mr. Sherab Palden and Mr. Sanchaman Limbu, and an ex-MP, Mr. S. K. Rai. [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jun 83 p 9]

SOUTH AFRICA HANGINGS CONDEMNED--NEW DELHI, June 10 -- The government has condemned Pretoria's brutal act of violence in executing three valiant freedom-fighters of South Africa yesterday in total disregard of the appeals for clemency universally voiced by the international community and the U.N. security council. A spokesman of the external affairs ministry said today that "no amount of brutality and terrorism can suppress the indomitable human urge for

freedom and liberty." The martyrdom of the three freedom-fighters would only serve to further strengthen the determination of the people of South Africa to liquidate the inhuman system of apartheid and racial discrimination. The statement read out by the spokesman called on the international community, particularly those wielding considerable leverage with the Pretoria regime, to no longer delay taking adequate steps to oblige it to heed and respect international opinion and observe the basic tenets of human law, justice and international behaviour. Apprehension was also expressed over the likely threat to international peace and stability from the explosive situation created by the hangings of the three freedom-fighters. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Jun 83 p 7]

ANDHRA PRADESH CABINET--HYDERABAD, June 12: The Andhra Pradesh cabinet was expanded today with the addition of a minister of state. The new minister is Mr. Chegondi Venkata Harirama Jogayya, who represents the Narsapur assembly constituency. He was sworn in by the governor, Mr. K. C. Abraham, at a Raj Bhavan ceremony. Like the chief minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao, Mr. Jogayya also hails from the film industry. He produced four Telugu pictures. He was a Congress(I) MLA from 1972 to 1978 and joined the Telugu Desam last year. With today's addition, the strength of the council of ministers has been restored to the original 15. It had dropped to 14 with the death some time ago of the endowments minister, Mr. E. Anjaneyulu. The state now has nine cabinet ministers and six ministers of the state. [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jun 83 p 4]

PROTOCOL WITH USSR TO BENEFIT INDIAN SPORTS--SPORTS in India will be immensely benefited following a protocol signed with the Soviet Union on 6 June in Moscow, reports PTI. According to the agreement, the Soviet Union will send in October three specialists on bio-mechanics of sports, psychology of sportsmen and sports medicine for a period of 30 days to assist Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NIS), Patiala and Laxmi Bai National College of Physical Education (LNCPE), Gwalior. The country will also send 12 Olympic free-style grapplers for a period of 14 days for joint training and competitions in September/October, besides sending 15 gymnast for 12 days during the same period. The protocol was signed for USSR by Mr M Gramov, president, Committee on Physical Culture and Sports under the Council of Ministers and for India by sports secretary B C Mathur. The Soviet Union will also send a men's hockey team for 10 days in November, three chess players in December and volleyball and equestrian coaches for 30 days. The protocol provides for LNCPE establishing institutional contact with the Research Institute for Child and Adolescence Physiology of USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences (Moscow) and Selected Institute of Physical Culture of USSR for exchange of published literature. A men's basketball team and a football team will play a series of exhibition matches in India, dates of which would be fixed later by mutual agreement. Two more specialists on physical education and methods of coaching will render assistance to the NIS and the LNCPE in the months of October and November. Indian weightlifters, wrestlers, boxers and archers will be trained by Soviet coaches for 30 days while the women's hockey team will play a series of matches with their Soviet counterparts, dates of which will be fixed later. India will send a five-member athletics team to participate in the final of the eighth summer Spartakiade from 15 to 23 June and Gymnasts to vie for honours in an

international meet sponsored by a Moscow daily sometime later in the year. The country will also send a football team and women's hockey team for joint trainings and playing matches. A weightlifting coach will undergo a six-month coaching course in the Soviet State Central Institute of Physical Culture on submission of appropriate documents by India to the Soviet Ministry of Higher and Specialised Education. Besides, a men's volleyball team for matches, free-style wrestlers for coaching camps and pugilists for an international competition will also be sent by India. Both the countries agreed to inform each other about the arrivals of sport delegations, changes of dates or cancellation of the event no later than 15 days in advance of the schedule. The Soviet Union also agreed to send in 1983-84 sports films and literature in Russian and English. Regarding the financing part of the protocol, the sending side will pay for the passage, both ways, while the receiving country will bear the expenses of local hospitality. Pocket money per sportsman per day will be three rubles in the USSR while it will be Rs 33 in India. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Jun 83 p 6]

NEW BIHAR DISTRICT--PATNA, June 11--Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath announced that the Rs 21 lakh loan taken by the Paheria scheduled tribe would be written off. They would be given fresh loans from State scheduled tribe development co-operative corporation. Dr. Jagannath was inaugurating Sahebhanj the 37th district in Bihar yesterday. He said that special measures were being taken to protect and rehabilitate Paharia tribe. Schemes would be launched for their health care and if necessary WHO would be associated with the scheme. The Chief Minister also said that the extension of irrigation facilities in Santhal Parganas and Chhotanagpur would be speeded up. The new district with 13 development block, 229 panchayats, and nearly 3000 villages had been formed by taking Sahebganj and Pakur sub-divisions. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Jun 83 p 4]

CSO: 4600/1318

SHOORA BODY RECOMMENDS PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 83 pp 1, 4

[Article by Hasan Akhtar]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 8: The majority report of the 30-member Constitution Special Committee of the Federal Council (Majlis-i-Shoora) is understood to have recommended about a dozen amendments in the 1973 Constitution, to enable it to serve as the future constitutional framework for an Islamic form and system of government in Pakistan.

Considerable divergence of views among the committee members on key constitutional issues understandably surfaced during the committee's deliberations.

The Special Committee report is also believed to have proposed about nine amendments in the Political Parties Act of 1962, regulating the political parties in the country. The proposed constitutional and Political Parties Act amendments are supposed not only to provide for the state structure and administration of an Islamic State, but also to serve as a truly democratic system.

The majority report is said to have expressed its unequivocal view that although Islam neither prescribed nor insisted on a particular form, political system or framework, there has been an "Ijma" (consensus) in Pakistan's Constitution-making history, since mid fifties on the establishment of a parliamentary form of government.

The Special Committee's majority report is also said to have recommended the parliamentary system, as envisaged in the 1973 Constitution, with bi-cameral legis-

lature, and more rational distribution of power between the President and Prime Minister.

The Committee is also said to have proposed direct universal franchise and rejected the proportional representation system.

The Special Committee of the Federal Council was set up during its fifth session on a resolution of Mr Sharaf Faridi, a member from Karachi, and since April, this year, till first week of July, had held about 30 meetings.

The Special Committee had also set up a sub-committee to facilitate its deliberations. The sub-committee was required to attend particularly to three points suggest amendments in the 1973 Constitution to bring about a "balance of powers" between the President and Prime Minister, recommend a suitable party system in Pakistan's proposed Islamic framework and suggest appropriate mode of elections.

While defining the objectives of an Islamic State and democracy, the Special Committee is said to have sought guidance from the movement for creation of Pakistan and its ideology and from the famous message of the Quaid-i-Azam to the people of the United States in February, 1948, expressing the view that Pakistan's Constitution would be "of a democratic type, embodying the essential principles of Islam". The report further expressed the view that the main idea behind an Islamic State was to enforce "Maroof" and prevent "Munkar".

The Chairman of the Special Committee, Mr Fida Mohammad Khan, is also said to have received five notes of dissent from some members. They included a note of dissent by five or six members led by Mr Zain Noorani, a member from Karachi, who have quoted extensively Mr A.K. Brohi from his various statements to assert that a truly presidential form of government would be closest to the Islamic concept of a state and government. The note of dissent however, emphasised the importance of retaining one-man one-vote system and direct election of the President and members of the House.

As is well known, the special committee's report together with the notes of dissent will be debated late this month or early in August, in the Federal Council before it finalise its recommendations for presentation to President Zia-ul-Haq, who is reported to have sought recommendations on Pakistan's future constitution and political system from the Council of Islamic Ideology and a committee composed of senior constitutional lawyer, Mr Brohi, a prominent banker and son of a well-known Muslim League leader, Mr Jamil Nishtar and a few other persons. According to the President's most recent announcement on Wednesday, he hoped, it would be possible for him to stand by his "commitment" to make an announcement on the current constitutional exercise by August 14, nation's 37th Independence Day.

It is understood that some of the important changes proposed by the majority report in the 1973 Constitution relate to Articles 46, 48, 58, 75, 91, 93 and 96 concerning the powers of the President and the Prime Minister. One of the proposed amendments is understood to have stated that the Prime Minister would not be able to advise the President to dissolve or prorogue the assembly while a notice of non-confidence was pending against the Prime Minister.

The majority reports also recommends that the President and not the Prime Minister should be the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

While recommending the qualifications and election of President, the special committee is said to have proposed that he should be a person known to be a practicing Muslim with knowledge of Quran and Sunnah, and he should be elected at a joint session of the both Houses of the Federal legislature and the four provincial assemblies.

The report is believed to be silent on the question whether a woman can be a President or Prime Minister in Islam.

Another recommendation of the majority report it is believed, seeks to make Judiciary as far indepen-

dent as practical and totally free from the control of Executive. It is held to be a cardinal point of an Islamic system that no one is above law. Impliedly no one acting as or on behalf of the government would be placed above accountability before the court of law. Even the present powers of the President to grant pardon or remission in legal sentences are sought to be withdrawn. It is said that the committee recommended that President can only ask the court to review its judgment, if necessary.

The special committee is also stated to have made the fundamental rights totally inviolable under orders of Executive authority. Although according to the recommendation by the special committee, fundamental rights could be suspended in some very extraordinary circumstances, Islam does not permit suspension of fundamental rights in any situation, it was pointedly stated in the report.

The special committee is learnt to have laboured a great deal on the questions relating to the organisation of political parties, elections and voters and candidates' qualifications. In principle, direct adult franchise is accepted in the report of the special committee, but it is said to have proposed conditions on

registration of political parties and their character. Regional or linguistic parties are sought to be banned, and, only the parties dedicated to follow Quran and Sunnah and having following in all the four provinces should be permitted to function and take part in elections, according to the majority view. Political parties alliances set up to oppose jointly a government, would not be permitted in elections.

It is understood that the minimum age of a voter is recommended by the special committee to be 21 as against 18 in 1973 Constitution while that of the candidate to the Senate elections to be 40. Presumably candidate in National or Provincial Assembly elections can be 21 or above. Voter will be required to swear that he observes Soem-o-Salawat (offers Namaz) while a candidate would be required to have basic knowledge of Quran and Sunnah and literate and possesses Islamic character by following tenets of Islam, and by not indulging openly in profligacy.

It is believed that the special committee has recommended full participation of minorities in country's political system within the stipulated conditions.

POLITICAL FRAMEWORK: DIALOGUE, DEBATE STRESSED

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 83 p 7

[Article by A. T. Chaudhri: "Groping for a New System"]

[Text] **CONSTITUTION-making** has been the nightmare of this country for over a quarter century and of late it has again been groping for a new political structure, though the 1973 Constitution, "held in abeyance," still enjoys the widest possible national consensus despite the fact that it has been mended and amended out of shape during the last decade.

Showing due deference to public opinion which is overwhelmingly in favour of reviving the Basic Law of 1973 to take the country to the polls and transfer power to the people's representatives, the 30-member committee of the Majlis-i-Shoora, which was entrusted with the task of drawing up a blueprint of Islamic democracy, is now reported to have presented its draft to the Chairman of the Shoora. Significantly, it has recommended the retention of the 1973 Constitution and opposed the induction of any "basic or major change" in the original document. This sounds too good to be true, but if it is true, it is a signal triumph of public opinion, rather public conscience.

A wholesale change in the 1973 Constitution, or a complete alteration of the political structure envisioned by its framers representing all political parties and all shades of opinion in the constituent units of the Federation, would have

been fraught with great hazards. The Constitution does admit of minor amendments to meet the imperatives of the Islamic orientation of society. But to reopen settled constitutional issues or disturb the balance between the Central authority and regional autonomy, or screen the Party system which is the sheet-anchor of a democratic polity, would have opened the proverbial Pandora's box and even loosened the moorings of the nation.

Parliamentary system

The special committee of the Shoora has acted prudently in recommending that Pakistan should stick to the parliamentary system of government — as distinct from the Presidential form which was considered, by a cross-section of the ulema, to be more akin to Islamic polity. It has suggested that general election should be held on the basis of one-man-one-vote without doing away with partyism or adopting the system of proportional representation, which could only give a new lease of life to minor pro-regime parties.

The Committee has also done well to have recommended a more judicious balance between the powers of the President and Prime Minister in the new setup. Nevertheless, while proposing to abolish Article 48 of the 1973 Constitution which gives sweeping powers to the Prime Minister, care has to be taken not to overload the dice in favour of the President —

who will also be the supreme Commander of the armed forces — and empower him to dissolve the National Assembly or dismiss the Prime Minister at will. In dividing the Federal powers between the President and the Prime Minister a system of checks and balances must be instituted to avoid the old pitfalls of parliamentary government.

As for the eligibility conditions for the offices of the President and the Prime Minister the Shoora Committee has wisely adhered to the provisions laid down in the 1973 Constitution and rejected the plea of fundamentalists that a woman should be debarred from holding the office of the chief executive. But it is difficult to agree with the suggestion of the committee that only those parties should be allowed to contest the elections which are "registered" or which function on "national basis".

New balance

If any such criterion is laid down, it would not only detract from the concept of unadulterated democracy; it may also make the future elections farcical. If supremacy belongs to the people, they alone can accept or reject parties of particular affiliations by exercising their right of franchise. None in authority can be given arbitrary powers to prejudge the verdict of the people and seal the fate of any party or parties before it presents itself to the electorate.

Now, there are two other committees, one headed by a Federal Minister and enjoying official blessings, and the other sailing under the banner of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII). They, too, have finalised parallel, and not-so-parallel, constitutional drafts on the future governance of State in the light of Islamic tenets. The CII, which is reported to be divided on the question of proportional representation, has proposed a Presidential form of government and a National Assembly part-elected and part-nominated — presumably on the Indonesian pattern. It is said to be discreetly silent on the role of the armed forces in the new political order.

The Cabinet Committee, it is believed, has opted for the parliamentary system with a new balance between the powers of the President and the Prime Minister. That way its proposals converge on those of the Shoora. The point of divergence is that this committee not only stands for restrictions on political parties but also calls for holding elections on a non-party basis and screening some candidates. The screening is to be carried out by "special boards" which would determine the eligibility of candidates for an election. This appears to reflect official thinking on a controversial and prickly issue.

It is difficult to say how those at the helm of power would react to the divergent proposals of the three committees which have only a consultative status. Since they do not have any representative character and have not been given any mandate by the people to draw up a constitutional framework, their blueprints are not backed up by public opinion. That explains why the Shoora Committee has followed the line of least resistance and realistically placed almost exclusive reliance on the 1973 Constitution, though it has also taken a leaf out of the 1956 Constitution, in respect of the powers of the President.

Implicit in this sensible approach is the realisation that people would not accept a new brand of political system imposed from above. After all, the 1962 Constitution, bearing the imprint of Bonapartism, could not endure for more than half a decade. A constitution is what the people give unto themselves by asserting their general will. It is too sacrosanct a document to be forged or altered by a nominated committee or council. Only an elected Parliament is competent to effect major constitutional changes in the body-politic and that too with public sanction. (And, even a parliament cannot last very long if it tries to ride roughshod over the sac-

red Basic Law, which has a sanctity of its own).

General will

Seen in this light, the arbiters of the nation's destiny will do well to cry halt to constitutional topsyturvydom. They should largely adhere to the 1973 Constitution to end the long drawn-out spell of Martial Law and bring about a smooth, painless and peaceful transfer of power to the civilian authority. Adhesion to the 1973 Constitution — of course with some essential amendments, some of which have been suggested by the Shoora — would also enable the present regime to open a dialogue with the Opposition leaders, put them on the defensive and wean them away from the path of confrontation.

Even negotiations with the leaders of defunct parties, or a couple of eminent jurists would not be enough. The amended draft of the 1973 Constitution must receive the seal of public approval. It must be endorsed by the people through a brisk referendum. Even the Turkish military regime submitted their new draft constitution, framed on the Gaullist model of 1958 with excessive powers for the President to a popular referendum to ensure the durability of "democracy with strings".

FILM ON QAUID: WORK IN PROGRESS

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 8: Arrangements are in advanced stage for the production of a 52-minute documentary at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.6 million on the Quaid-i-Azam and the struggle of the Muslims of the subcontinent under his leadership to establish a State of their own.

Lt-Gen Mujeeb Rehman, Secretary, Information, Government of Pakistan, told newsmen at an If-tar party on Friday evening that a senior producer and script writer of the British film "Signet" had been having extensive discussions for the last one week with Pakistani scholars and officials on the theme and message of documents.

The Information Secretary said it was hoped that after discussion on theme, the producer of the documentary and officials of the Ministry of Information would hold a meeting with a Cabinet sub-committee, comprising Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, Mr Mahmoud Haroon and Raja Zafarul Haq, and headed by President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, to place before it the entire project for final signal to go ahead. It was expected that the documentary would take about six months to be produced.

Lt-Gen Mujeeb said that the object of the documentary would be to inform mainly foreign television viewers as to what was the main object in establishing a separate homeland for a Muslim nation in the Indian subcontinent and how did the Quaid-i-Azam, who was initially a staunch nationalist, eventually recognised a need for a separate homeland and galvanised the Muslim masses to struggle for it.

The Information Secretary said that the documentary was not intended to counter the award-winning film "Gandhi", produced at a fabulous cost of Rs 260 million. The idea of producing a documentary on the Quaid-i-Azam and Pakistan had been under consideration of the Government for the last several years, he said. However, a full-length feature film on the Quaid-i-Azam, Gen Mujib indicated, might also be taken in hand.

LONDON, July 8: Britain's opposition Labour Party wants a formal Parliamentary inquiry into the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, General Belgrano, with the loss of 321 lives at the start of the Falklands war last year. —Reuter

CSO: 4600/770

REFUGEES IN BALUCHISTAN NUMBER OVER 700,000

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

QUETTA, July 8: As a result of foreign aggression against their country in December, 1979, Afghan refugees have been infiltrating in Pakistan at a larger scale.

Since then the number of these refugees have crossed 700,000 in the province of Baluchistan, says a handout.

In spite of this large number in the province, Government of Pakistan is trying its best to provide basic amenities to these uprooted people in their camps, great importance is given to the provision of drinking water, schooling and medical facilities. Upto now 40 dispensaries have been set up. Medical officers are looking in these dispensaries besides other paramedical staff. About 6000 outdoor patients are being treated in these dispensaries on daily basis. Four hospitals of 10-beds each are working at Pishin, Gulistan, Muslim Bagh, and Dalbadin.

In the field of education, 65 schools have been opened for the refugees children. Nearly 7000 children are getting education in these schools. 160 teachers have been appointed for this purpose by the Education Department. During the current fiscal year, 5 more girl schools will be opened in Baluchistan.—APP.

CSO: 4600/770

BRIEFS

DERA BUGTI, KOHLU BOUNDARIES--Quetta, July 8: The Government of Baluchistan has constituted a new agency/district namely, Dera Bugti Agency/District and re-arranged the limits of the existing Kohlu Agency/District and newly-constituted Dera Bugti Agency/District. Kohlu Agency/District will have sub divisions of Kohlu, Kahan and Mewand with tehsils of Kohlu, Kahan and Mewand. Similarly, Dera Bugti Agency/District will have Dera Bugti, a sub division with Dera Bugti tehsil, Dera Bugti sub-tehsil and Sangsillah sub-tehsil, Sui sub-division with Sui sub-tehsil Loti sub-tehsil and Phellawagh sub-division with Phellawagh tehsil, Malam sub-tehsil, Bekar sub-tehsil and Pir Koh sub-tehsil. The notification in this regard shall be deemed to have come into force from first July 1983.--APP [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 83 p 3]

SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING BOOKLET--Hyderabad, July 8: The Summary Military Court No. 18 Hyderabad, has awarded six months rigorous imprisonment to one, Hamid Ali, who was challaned by police station, Cantonment, Hyderabad, while another accused, Akbar Ali, was acquitted by the court. [as published] According to Divisional Martial Law Authorities, Hyderabad, on Feb 16, 1982, a police party recovered photostat copies of booklet, captioned "Phansee kee kothri say", written by late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, at Fayaz Photostat, with intention to circulate the same. The contents of the said booklet excite dissatisfaction against the Armed Forces of Pakistan, and the Martial Law. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 83 p 3]

BRAIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE PLANNED--Islamabad, July 8: The Federal Health Ministry is actively considering to establish at Rawalpindi a brain research institute. Informed sources today told DAWN, besides Pakistan, WHO has also agreed in principle to give the project all necessary help. The firstever brain institute will treat specially psycho cases number of which has increased considerably during the past few years, these sources said. Besides giving medical treatment, the proposed institute will also prepare various kinds of drugs for psychological symptoms such as hysteria, psychosis, depression, shizophrenia and others. [as published] [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 83 p 3]

POLICE, PROSECUTION TO SEPARATE--Lahore, July 8: Prosecution will be separated from Police Department under a phased programme shortly, and to begin with the separation work will start from some heavy work district of

the Punjab, it is reliably learned. The decision has been taken by the Government in principle to separate prosecution branch manned by the police and put it under the charge of Law Department. It is further learned that the prosecutors will be given better grade and their working conditions be improved. At present a prosecution sub-inspector is working in grade seven and prosecution inspector in grade eleven. On coming under the Law department, the prosecutor will work in plain-clothes and they will simply scrutinise challans and prosecute cases in courts.--APP. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 83 p 3]

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